



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
SB891, SD2
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Ilagan and Tam, Vice Chairs Hussey and Templo, and members of the
Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers
comments on SB891, SD2, which Establishes a Gaming Working Group within DBEDT and
requires a report to the Legislature. DBEDT offers the following comments:

1. The co-chairpersons of the working group are the Senate and House Economic Development Committees. It might be more efficient to have the staff of the two legislative committees to support the working group because frequent communications and discussions are necessary between the chairpersons and the staff on scheduling, logistic arrangement, and agenda development.
2. There have been over 70 bills and resolutions related to gaming introduced in the past 10 years. During this time, there has never been consensus among the legislature, the administration, and the community.
3. DBEDT is currently leading the Sports Wagering Working Group as required by HCR70 HD1 SD1 of the 2024 legislative session. The working group had six meetings between November 2024 and March 2025, with the last meeting occurred on March 11, 2025. According to our experience, a working group may not be an effective way to

obtain policy recommendations since gaming has never existed in Hawai'i. Without historical data, the members may not know what to recommend. Furthermore, the members have different views and positions, and this makes it difficult to come to a consensus for recommendations.

4. Since gaming activities may impact all the citizens in the state, it might be difficult to form a group that represents all the different communities in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DBEDT DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DBEDT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BRENNON T. MORIOKA
CHAIR, STADIUM AUTHORITY

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
INTERIM STADIUM MANAGER



An Agency of the State of Hawaii

Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Interim Stadium Manager
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
and
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
S.B. 891, SD2
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Ilagan and Tam, Vice Chairs Hussey and Templo and members of the Committees.

The Stadium Authority offers the following comments on Senate Bill 891, SD2, which proposes to establish a Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. SB 891, SD2 specifically asks the Gaming Working Group to examine the potential for gaming activities at the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED).

The Stadium Authority is currently negotiating a Master Development Agreement and Stadium Development and Operations Agreement with Aloha Halawa District Partners (AHDP) for the construction of the new Aloha Stadium and development of the

surrounding NASED project. One of the requirements under the agreement is for AHDP to operate and maintain the new stadium for 30 years. If the NASED project is able to generate revenues from legal gaming activities taking place at hotels and commercial establishments within the NASED project, AHDP will be able to use this revenue source to meet its stadium maintenance and repair obligations. We look forward to reading the Working Group's report on its findings and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris
Managing Director

March 19, 2025
10:30 am

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology and House Committee on Tourism

CR 423 & Videoconference

Re: SB 891 SD2- Relating to Economic Development

Testimony in Support of SB891- Tourism and Gaming Working Group

The Ironworkers Stabilization Fund in strong support of SB891 which establishes a Tourism and Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). Creating this working group is a crucial step in understanding the complex relationship between tourism and the potential introduction of legalized gaming in Hawaii with proposed amendments

A comprehensive and thoughtful approach is essential when considering such a significant policy shift. This working group will provide a valuable forum for stakeholders to discuss the potential impacts – both positive and negative – of legalized gaming on our state's economy, communities, and existing tourism industry. The required report to the Legislature will ensure transparency and inform data-driven decision-making.

Furthermore, we propose an amendment to add

“One individual having knowledge, experience, and expertise in the area of labor, to be invited by the co-chairpersons of the working group;”

on the task force. Labor organizations, like ours, have a unique understanding of the needs of our communities and the potential impacts of legalized gaming on working families. Our members are often the ones who build the infrastructure associated with such projects, and therefore have a vested interest in their responsible development.

Including labor's perspective is vital for several reasons:

- * Workforce Development: Labor organizations can provide valuable insights into the workforce needs of a potential gaming industry, ensuring that local residents have the skills and training necessary to fill available jobs.

- * Community Impact: Our members are deeply rooted in their communities and understand the potential social and economic impacts of gaming on local residents.



Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

* Responsible Development: Labor organizations can advocate for responsible development practices that prioritize worker safety, fair wages, and community well-being.

Including labor's voice in this process will ensure that any decisions regarding legalized gaming are made with the best interests of Hawaii's workers and communities in mind. We believe that a balanced and inclusive approach, incorporating the perspectives of all stakeholders, is essential for the success of this working group.

I urge the committee to approve SB891 with the proposed amendment. This is a crucial step towards understanding the complexities of this issue and making informed decisions about the future of tourism and gaming in Hawaii. Thank you.

“We are keeping the pennies and watching the dollars fly away, soon we’ll lose the pennies and end up with zero”

T. George Paris
Managing Director

**Kehaulani Lum
Pelekikena
Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club
99-045 Nalopaka Place
'Aiea, Hawai'i 96701
aliipauahi@gmail.com**

Statement before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
and the Committee on Tourism

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

Comments relating to
Bill SB891, SD 2
Relating to Economic Development

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and the members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology and Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, and the members of the House Committee on Tourism.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to share our **comments** on SB891 SD2, RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT through the establishment of a Tourism and Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the Pelekikena of the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, a 50-year-old Native Hawaiian organization chartered with the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in 1973. Our club was founded by esteemed elders in diverse fields, including education, business, real estate, health, and cultural practice. We are located in 'Aiea, Hawai'i, the community which sits in the epicenter of several developments of interest to the Legislature, including, the NASED, OCCC, the Skyline, and the Pu'uwai Momi Public Housing projects.

Ali'i Pauahi believes wholeheartedly in full, open, pono, and transparent dialogue, particularly, when it pertains to a major public policy matter as significant to the community as this. From the original version of the Bill, which included three members of the general public on the working group, the version which you are considering now has none. Yet, it boasts three industry members from out of State.

To ensure a harmonious outcome, we respectfully request that the Committee restore at least one public member seat to the working group and that it be held by a member of the 'Aiea Community Association, whose longstanding history and reputation for fairness and caring for

the well-being of the entire community is renowned. (The Stadium Authority set aside for 'Aiea is a good precedent.)

In this way, the working group's composition will ensure the holistic outcome intended by its authors, as well as in the Aloha Spirit Law, HRS 5-7.5.

We urge your serious consideration of this comment.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum
99-045 Nalopaka Place
'Aiea, Hawaii

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:36:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Makaawaawa	Nation of Hawai'i	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Testimony of Brandon Maka'awa'awa

In Opposition to SB 891, SD2

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 19, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

The discussion around gaming in Hawai'i should not be rushed. SB 891, SD2 attempts to move forward without addressing fundamental concerns not just about regulation, oversight, and community impact but also allowing corporations that do not understand the culture and economic interests of Native Hawai'ians. A working group is not an automatic solution, especially when it lacks balance and a clear directive to ensure that any gaming policy benefits the people of Hawai'i rather than outside interests.

Gaming is a major economic decision that must be built on a foundation of accountability and fairness. The Nation of Hawai'i has been studying how other nations have built strong foundations that have had lasting impacts on their community, making the community shareholders in the process. The current proposal does not create that foundation. If gaming is to be considered, it must prioritize reinvestment into local communities, protection of Native Hawaiian rights, allow Hawai'ian to determine their economic sovereignty, and develop responsible regulatory structures that prevent exploitation. This bill does not achieve those goals.

The role of corporate gaming interests in shaping this process is deeply concerning. The people of Hawai'i should not be forced into a system where gaming policy is written by those who stand to profit the most. There is also a misconception that gaming will solve all of Hawai'i's economic challenges. Without the right framework, it could create more harm than good,

especially if revenues leave the islands instead of strengthening local programs. The Nation of Hawai'i stands ready to have those conversations but the current construct of SB 891, SD2 does not allow for the right people to be at the table.

I urge the committee to reject SB 891, SD2 and take the time to develop an approach that protects the people of Hawai'i first. There is a better way forward, but it begins with transparency, careful planning, and leadership from those who understand the unique needs of this community. It is something that has been lacking since this bill was introduced and we hope will be rejected today but offer a more thoughtful conversation after the session has concluded when conversation can better occur not under a deadline.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Brandon Maka'awa'awa
Vice President, Nation of Hawai'i

INDEPENDENT & SOVEREIGN NATION STATE OF HAWAI'I



EXECUTIVE

Office of the Foreign Minister

41-1300 Waikupanaha Street Waimānalo, HI 96795

Testimony of John Kealoha Garcia

In Opposition to SB 891, SD2

Committee on Ways and Means March 19, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

SB 891, SD2 does not provide the right foundation for gaming in Hawai'i. While the idea of a working group may sound like a reasonable step, the way this bill is structured raises significant concerns about who will truly benefit and whether gaming policy will be developed in a fair and responsible manner.

Every jurisdiction that has legalized gaming has done so with a strong regulatory framework in place. Hawai'i currently has no such system as it is one of only two states that do not have any form of gaming. We have seen the loose structure that commercial companies have tried to inflict on Hawai'i that is currently included in the sports betting language, setting a standard that is the least of any in the United States. Yet, this bill proposes moving forward without addressing key questions about oversight, revenue allocation, and long-term economic impact with input from those same organizations that intend to benefit as opposed to putting Hawai'i first. There is no urgency that justifies rushing into a process that lacks clarity.

INDEPENDENT & SOVEREIGN NATION STATE OF HAWAI'I



EXECUTIVE

Office of the Foreign Minister

41-1300 Waikupanaha Street Waimānalo, HI 96795

If gaming is introduced in Hawai'i, it must be done in a way that protects the cultural, economic, and environmental interests of the islands. It cannot be dictated by outside gaming corporations that have no long-term stake in the well-being of this community. The Native Hawaiian people should be leading the conversation, not watching from the sidelines as another industry profits from our land while providing little restitution to the people who live here. While the inclusion of a Native Hawaiian voice has been added throughout this process, there needs to be further balance added. When the time is right, the Nation looks forward to not only participating but leading these conversations on behalf of Hawai'i

This is a moment for careful consideration, not shortcuts. I urge the committee to reject SB 891, SD2 and take the time to explore an approach that truly serves Hawai'i. The potential opportunities of gaming should be studied with fairness, transparency, and community leadership, not dictated by those who stand to gain the most financially.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

John Kealoha Garcia

Second Vice President, Foreign Affairs & Commerce, Nation of Hawai'i



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TESTIMONY OF
DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
AND
TOURISM**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of
SB 891 SD1 SD 2
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aloha Chairs Ilagan and Tam, Vice Chair Hussey and Templo, and Members of the
Committees,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) is pleased to provide comments on SB891, SD2, which
establishes a Tourism and Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business,
Economic Development, and Tourism. It also requires a report to the legislature and sets the
effective date as of July 1, 2050.

HTA recommends having a seat on the working group since it will examine "how gaming
activities may support the work being done by the department of business, economic
development, and tourism, and the Hawaii tourism authority." Additionally, the legislature should
appropriate funds to prevent this from becoming an unfunded mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our comments on SB 891 SD2.



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

The Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair
Committee on Tourism

**Subject: Comments and Proposed Amendments to
Senate Bill No. 891, S.D. 2
Relating to Economic Development**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Chair Hussey, Vice Chair Hussey, Vice Chair Templo, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development and Technology and Tourism:

The 'Aiea Community Association is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to serving the 'Aiea community, including the ahupua'a of Waimalu, Kalauao, 'Aiea, and Halawa. We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 891, S.D. 2, and to offer proposed amendments to address our concerns.

As presently drafted, this measure would establish a Tourism and Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Among other duties, the working group would be tasked with examining the potential for gaming activities at the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District.

While the original version of this measure, as introduced, provided for three members of the public to serve on the working group, the current Senate Draft 2 does not include any public members. Limiting the working group's composition to only one side of the issue (mainly economic) does not ensure the holistic outcome intended in the Aloha Spirit Law, HRS section 5-7.5.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committees consider including as a member of the working group a representative of the 'Aiea Community Association to ensure that the 'Aiea and Halawa community is a part of this very important conversation, especially in light of this measure's significance and the potential impact of gaming on economic, social, cultural, educational, and spiritual indicators affecting every member of society, much less our community.



We urge your serious consideration of this comment so that the original intent of the legislation is honored and in order to ensure that the life spirit of Hawai'i remains in the name and practice of the Stadium, and that the project may truly be a success.

As an organization dedicating to serving the community that is to be most affected by the Working Group's report, we would be deeply grateful to know that the voice of our community is heard, in the very foundation of the work. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and proposed amendments.

Thank you for your time and efforts representing your communities.

Claire J. Tamamoto
'Aiea Community Association, President

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:48:21 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pu'uhonua Bumpy Kanahele	NATION OF HAWAII	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Testimony of Pu'uhonua Dennis B.K. Kanahele*In Opposition to SB 891, SD2*

Committee on Ways and Means

March 19, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Gaming is a serious discussion that must be handled with *care, respect*, and a *commitment to what is in the best interest of Hawai'i*. SB 891, SD2 does not reflect that level of thoughtfulness needed for this important policy issue.. This bill moves forward without the necessary structure, oversight, or community leadership instead of ensuring that gaming policy is built in a way that benefits the people of Hawai'i, It also let's corporate interests dictate policy and insure themselves as the winners.

For decades, Native Hawaiians have fought for the right to determine our own economic future. Outside interests have often shaped policies that profit from our land, our resources, and our culture, while our communities are left behind. Gaming could present an opportunity for economic growth, but only if it is built with fairness, accountability, and a structure that ensures real benefits reach the people of Hawai'i. This bill does not provide those guarantees.

There are too many unanswered questions about how this working group will operate, who will truly benefit from its recommendations, and whether the process will be fair and inclusive. It has already selected winners and losers by allowing not one but multiple corporate operators that will not have Hawai'i's best interests at heart.

Operators should not have seats at the table as it is the fox guarding the hen house. They can contribute in other ways while not serving in a decision making capacity as they will likely set the table for their own benefit. If this remains, a provision should be added that ethically removes them from participating in a commercial way in the future. The Senate has already rejected the companion bill where testimony raised concerns about the lack of a clear regulatory structure, the role of corporate gaming interests, and the absence of a well-defined reinvestment strategy. Until these issues are addressed, this bill should not move forward.

While we appreciate the addition of adding a Native Hawaiian to the working group, the current structure is too large to be effective and should be narrowed. The National of Hawai'i is supportive of gaming and we look forward to working with stakeholders as we continue to work on a culturally sensitive gaming plan that focuses on Hawai'i with a strict regulatory framework that supports Hawai'i initiatives.

Hawai'i has the opportunity to learn from other jurisdictions and develop a responsible framework that puts the interests of local communities first. That will not happen if decisions are rushed or made by those who do not understand the complexities of Hawai'i and establish a proper and strict regulatory structure. Rather than advancing a flawed bill, I urge the committee to reject SB 891, SD2 and instead take the time to create a process that is truly built for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Pu'uhoonua Dennis B.K. Kanahele
President, Nation of Hawai'i



Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Representative Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair
House Committee on Tourism

Wednesday, March 19th

10:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423

Re: SB 891 SD2 – Relating to Economic Development – Testimony in Support

Aloha Chairs Ilagan and Tam, Vice Chairs Hussey and Templo, and members of the Committees,

We strongly support Senate Bill 891 SD2, which establishes a Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). This measure seeks to explore a comprehensive gaming policy framework to drive economic growth, job creation, investment, and tax revenue for the State of Hawai'i. Notably, Section 1(b)(3) of the bill directs the working group to examine the potential for gaming activities at the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED).

Aloha Hālawā District Partners (AHDP) respectfully requests an amendment to SB 891 SD2 to include AHDP as a member of the Gaming Working Group. AHDP was selected through a competitive bidding process to partner with the State in developing NASED, a vibrant, community-focused mixed-use district anchored by a new sports and entertainment venue. Given our role in shaping this transformative project, AHDP's inclusion in the working group would ensure that any discussions on gaming align with NASED's long-term vision, infrastructure, and economic goals.

AHDP supports the formation of a working group to explore new revenue opportunities that can enhance the district's sustainability while balancing responsible development and community interests. A thoughtful and well-planned approach to gaming could provide significant economic benefits, but it is essential that any considerations complement NASED's broader goals and maximize public benefit.

Additionally, AHDP has been actively engaged in community outreach, hosting public meetings to gather input and address concerns regarding NASED's development. Ensuring AHDP has a seat at the table would help incorporate community voices into discussions on potential gaming activities.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to amend SB 891 SD2 to include Aloha Hālawā District Partners as a member of the Gaming Working Group.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure. We appreciate your time and consideration.



Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Representative Adrian Tam, Chair
Representative Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair
Committee on Tourism

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

RE: SB 891 SD2 – Relating to Economic Development – Support, Request Amendments

Aloha Chairs Ilagan and Tam, Vice Chairs Hussey and Templo and Members of the Committees:

Boyd Gaming appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 891 SD2, which establishes a Tourism and Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), and requires a report to the Legislature.

Founded in 1975, Boyd Gaming is now a nationwide gaming company operating 28 casinos in 11 states, and has a presence in 19 distinct markets including our online presence in online gaming and sports wagering. Our perspective that we are sharing with you today has been shaped by 50 years of experience in the gaming industry, operating in all facets of gaming including brick-and-mortar casinos, sports wagering, online real money and social gaming, among others.

Our Company has strong ties to Hawai'i, as the state and its residents were a critical component of Boyd's foundational beginnings and continue to be an important part of the Company's success today. Boyd Gaming also owns and operates Vacations Hawaii, which has served over 1.5 million Hawai'i residents with convenient and affordable direct flights to Las Vegas since 1996. Vacations Hawaii is proud to be an established part of Hawai'i's local history, community and economy with employees based in both Hawai'i and in Las Vegas.

We believe this bill is an appropriate first step for the Legislature to take before passing any gaming policy legislation. Given that Hawai'i currently does not have any form of legalized gaming, the state has a unique opportunity to create a comprehensive gaming policy framework that is specifically tailored to Hawai'i's unique culture and tourism economy. The data, information and analysis done by the working group will be critical to help shape public policy for the Legislature to consider that will serve as a catalyst of economic activity, employment,

investment, and state and local tax revenue. Any gaming policy considered in Hawai'i should be complementary and additive to Hawai'i's existing robust tourism and hospitality industry. However, if done correctly, the main focus of gaming policy should not be solely to authorize gaming, but drive significant private capital investment to build upon and enhance Hawai'i's existing tourism infrastructure while supporting local priorities. The working group established by SB 891 SD2 could establish a comprehensive tourism framework to best position Hawai'i to take advantage of the intersection of tourism, sports, entertainment and gaming as part of the state's own "Fun Economy."

With this objective in mind, we would respectfully request the Committees to consider the following two amendments:

- Section 1(e): Extend the timeframe for submitting a report of the working group's findings and recommendations to December 31, 2026 to allow for sufficient time for the working group to meet and develop its report for the Legislature's consideration.
 - Similar reports that include comprehensive research and development of final recommendations generally require 10 to 12 meetings with time in between to research, develop findings and prepare presentations and final reports. With that understanding, we recommend 12 to 18 months to complete the work and therefore recommend this change to Section 1(e) and corresponding change to Section 1(g) below.
- Section 1(g): Extend the timeframe for the dissolution of the working group to January 1, 2027 to correspond with the extended timeframe for the report of findings and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure. We urge the Committees to pass this measure with the above amendments.



STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

▪ March 18, 2025

The Honorable Greggor Ilangan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair
The Honorable Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Tourism

Re: Testimony: SB 891, SD2 Relating to Economic Development
Hearing: March 19, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Conference Room 423

Dear Chair Ilangan, Chair Tam, Vice Chair Hussey, Vice Chair Templo, and Committee Members:

Stanford Carr Development (SCD) submits this testimony in **support** of SB 891, SD2, which establishes a Gaming Working Group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The working group will include local policy leaders and gaming industry experts tasked with developing a comprehensive gaming policy aimed at catalyzing our local economy. Gaming presents an opportunity for job creation and a new source of tax revenue for Hawaii. However, it is also controversial due to concerns about the social ills linked to legalized gambling.

As a member of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District development team, I urge the committee to keep an open mind regarding the potential benefits and allow the working group to thoroughly evaluate both the pros and cons. Additionally, the working group meetings will offer our community an opportunity to voice their opinions on the matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanford S. Carr", is written over a horizontal line.

Stanford S. Carr

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 3:27:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It was a matter of time the issue on gambling will arise again, espeically now with the down-turn of federal funding coming to the State of Hawaii for the next 4 years while Trump is in office and/or a Republican will be the next president after Trump.

SITE: HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER ONLY and NOT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY LIKE 'AIEA.

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 7:55:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am glad to see this bill continue to advance through our legislative process. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, our tourist-based economy has taken a hit and been slow to recover. Despite the natural beauty of our islands, that is no longer enough for either a vibrant economy or a competitive visitor experience. We've got to be adaptive and make Hawaii a more appealing visitor destination.

Gambling can play a constructive roll in boosting our economic fortunes. We've got to study the issue closely and get it right. I *strongly urge* this Committee to continue supporting this bill!

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:03:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB891.

Thank you, Faith Tuipulotu

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:39:49 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I support SB 891

Mahalo nui Rosie

Date: 3-19-2025

Aloha, I'm Dwayne Bautista and thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony today. I am here to express my strong support for SB891 SD2, which establishes a Gaming Working Group to address the complex issues surrounding potential gaming legalization in Hawaii.

I believe this legislation is crucial for ensuring responsible and well-regulated gaming should it be introduced to our state. The establishment of a dedicated Gaming Working Group, tasked with developing comprehensive policies and procedures, is a vital step in this process.

Reasons for Strong Support:

- **Proactive Policy Development:** SB891 SD1 provides a framework for proactive development of policies and procedures related to gaming, ensuring that we are prepared for any potential legalization.
- **Ensuring Responsible Regulation:** The Gaming Working Group will provide essential checks and balances to regulate the new revenue streams generated by legalized gaming.
- **Comprehensive Oversight:** By bringing together diverse expertise, the working group will ensure comprehensive oversight of gaming operations and revenue management.

Recommendation for Labor Representation:

I strongly recommend that a representative from organized labor be included as a member of this Gaming Working Group.

- **Workforce Impact:** Legalized gaming will create new employment opportunities, and labor representation is essential to ensure fair wages, safe working conditions, and the protection of workers' rights.
- **Community Impact:** Labor representatives can provide valuable insights into the potential impacts of gaming on local communities and ensure that the benefits of gaming are shared equitably.

- **Economic Equity:** Including labor in the process will help to ensure that the economic benefits of gaming are distributed fairly and contribute to the overall well-being of Hawaii's workforce.

Conclusion:

I urge the committee to support SB891 SD1 and to incorporate my recommendation for labor representation on the Gaming Working Group. By establishing this working group and including diverse perspectives, we can ensure that any potential introduction of gaming in Hawaii is managed responsibly and benefits our entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Bautista', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dwayne Bautista

SB-891-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:28:17 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/19/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting SB891: A Thoughtful Approach to Tourism and Economic Growth

Aloha Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

Hawai‘i has long been recognized for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and world-class tourism industry. However, as economic challenges persist and state revenues fluctuate, it is critical that we explore all possible avenues for sustainable economic growth. SB891 provides an opportunity to conduct a responsible and data-driven study on the potential role of gaming in Hawai‘i’s tourism economy.

This bill does not authorize the establishment of gaming but rather seeks to conduct a comprehensive study on its feasibility. By establishing a tourism and gaming working group within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), SB891 ensures that any consideration of gaming is approached thoughtfully and methodically. This study is a necessary step in evaluating whether gaming could serve as a viable source of economic stimulation, employment opportunities, and investment in the state while aligning with our values and community priorities.

The working group outlined in SB891 will:

1. **Assess Past Legislative Efforts** – By reviewing past gaming legislation considered in Hawai‘i, the study will determine if any prior proposals align with our current economic landscape and social considerations.
2. **Develop a Tourism Gaming Policy Framework** – This ensures that any future discussions about gaming are guided by a well-researched policy framework that prioritizes economic benefits while mitigating potential risks.
3. **Examine the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District** – The study will explore whether gaming activities could enhance the development of this major entertainment venue, potentially creating a dynamic space for both residents and visitors.
4. **Align with Economic and Tourism Strategies** – By evaluating how gaming activities may support DBEDT and the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, the study will consider whether this industry could contribute to the state's broader economic goals.

At its core, SB891 is about informed decision-making. The state of Hawai‘i must remain open to studying innovative ways to diversify its economy while maintaining the integrity of its cultural

and social fabric. By supporting SB891, we are not advocating for the immediate implementation of gaming but ensuring that we have the necessary information to make well-informed decisions about Hawai‘i’s economic future.

I fully support this study because responsible governance requires a willingness to explore all potential economic opportunities before making long-term decisions. This bill represents a prudent step forward in assessing whether tourism gaming could be a beneficial component of Hawai‘i’s economy.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

‘Iolani Kuoha