

SUPPORT

February 3, 2010

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of Hawaiian Affairs Committee & Members

From: David "Kawika" Kamai of Haiku, Maui

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2759 Relating to Gaming**

Dear Chair Carroll and Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2759 Relating to Gaming. This measure authorizes the Hawaiian Homes Commission to allow gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands and to designate specific Hawaiian Home Lands for the purposes of establishing gaming operations. It further creates a gaming commission to regulate all gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands. Imposes a wagering tax on gross receipts of casino gaming operations and provides for distribution to the general fund and Hawaiian Home Lands Trust Fund.

Like the native American Indians in America, there are tribes that have been successful in their efforts of gaming and reinvest their revenues to take care of their affordable housing shortages, health and human services programs, education, management of natural resource and native business entrepreneur programs.

With the AKAKA bill on the horizon and hopefully Hawaiians receiving federal recognition, it would be advantageous for Hawaiians to create a economic base streamline revenue that would address the following:

1. It will allow for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to put more native Hawaiians on our lands instead of leasing commercial leases to non-native Hawaiians for purposes of raising revenue streams to DHHL to fulfill its mandate. Just look at the lawsuit Kalima vs. State of Hawaii, DHHL which points out that the State DHHL haven't met their mandates to ensure that native Hawaiians are appropriately put on their lands in a time manner.
2. It will provide an economic engine where jobs would be created for native Hawaiians on their land. As well as provide funds for our health, human services, education, housing and economic development programs that will improve the lives of native Hawaiians.
3. The Hawaii State Constitution clearly states that the State has a fiduciary responsibility to DHHL to put Hawaiians on the land. Gaming will assist the state in fulfilling this constitution mandate and will generate revenues for the state general fund.

I urge you please support and pass HB 2759. Your favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui,

David "Kawika" Kamai
Haiku, Maui
(808) 870-9759

February 3, 2010

SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of Hawaiian Affairs Committee & Members

From: Mapu Kekahuna of Nahiku, Maui

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Mahalo Nui,

Mapu Kekahuna
Nahiku, Maui
(808) 248-7818

SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

February 3, 2010

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of Hawaiian Affairs Committee & Members

From: Corinna "T" Kekahuna of Nahiku, Maui

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2759 Relating to Gaming**

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I urge you please support and pass HB 2759. Your favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui,

Corinna "T" Kekahuna
Nahiku, Maui
(808) 248-8887

February 3, 2010

SUPPORT

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair of Hawaiian Affairs Committee & Members

From: Kumu Kamalu Kaho'okele Kekahuna of Nahiku, Maui

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2759 Relating to Gaming**

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I urge you please support and pass HB 2759. Your favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui,

Kumu Kamalu Kaho'okele Kekahuna Sili
Nahiku, Maui
(808) 248-8887



LATE TESTIMONY

KAULANA H. R. PARK
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ANITA S. WONG
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT J. HALL
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

OPPOSED

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KAULANA H. R. PARK, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON **HB 2759 RELATING TO GAMING**

February 3, 2010

Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Homes Commission and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands oppose this legislation that adds a section to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) to allow our commission to authorize casino gaming operations on our lands and establishes a gaming commission in the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

While we appreciate the committee's intent to provide financial support to DHHL, this type of activity is a departure from our current activities to generate revenue from our non-homestead lands. DHHL is concerned about the potential disadvantages associated with gaming like negative impacts to local businesses, difficulties with and cost of regulation, and social costs which may unintentionally cause a negative impact to our beneficiaries and the state. Additionally, pursuing gaming on Hawaiian home lands would require prior consultation with our beneficiaries.

We cannot support an initiative like this that would work against the rehabilitation of native Hawaiians as envisioned by our founder Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.

Further, we find HB 2759 to be in conflict with the Administration's budgetary goals and objectives for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DELBERT T. TATSUYAMA
RANDAL K. MACADANGDANG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE SD-TA

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
and Members
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

OPPOSED

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Carroll and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2759, Relating to Gaming

I am Susan Dowsett, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Bill No. 2759, Relating to Gaming. We strongly oppose all forms of gambling, in keeping with our conviction of sustaining and enriching communities.

We are convinced that gambling exploits those who can least afford it and undermines community values. Socioeconomic costs include unemployment benefits, welfare benefits, physical and mental health problems, theft, embezzlement, bankruptcy, suicide, child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, divorce, incarceration, work absences, and homelessness.

By holding steadfast against legalized gambling, the Honolulu Police Department continues in keeping its pledge to work in partnership to enhance and strengthen our communities through the enforcement of state and county statutes and newly enacted laws.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Bill No. 2759, Relating to Gaming.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

DC Kealoha

LM LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Susan Dowsett

SUSAN DOWSETT, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha



Late Testimony

Email to: HAWTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Hearing on: February 3, 2010 @ 10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

DATE: January 25, 2010

TO: House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Dennis Arakaki, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to HB 2759: Relating to Gaming

LATE TESTIMONY

OPPOSED

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, I am Dennis Arakaki, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of over 250 Christian churches. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii. We oppose this bill that would allow the Hawaiian homes commission to allow gaming on Hawaii homelands.

Hawaii is among only three (3) states in the nation where all forms of gambling remain illegal. (Utah and Tennessee are the others). Proponents of legalized gambling in Hawaii boast of its promise of economic revitalization and prosperity. While there is an element of truth to their claims, greater scrutiny reveals a far different story.

The widespread proliferation of gambling on the mainland has produced very troubling consequences for the people and communities most closely associated with it. Those consequences include: increased violent crime, property crime, and drug-related crime; an increased influence of organized crime; increased addiction and family deterioration; a disproportionately adverse impact on youth and the poor; and, a net negative economic impact.

Crime

An historical review of the experiences of several cities is illustrative.

- Casino operations began in the late 1970s in Atlantic City. Within three years, Atlantic City went from 50th to 1st in per-capita crime nationwide. (Goodman, Robert. (1995). *The Luck Business* (New York: Free Press).

- Five years after Deadwood, South Dakota, legalized limited-stakes casino gambling in 1989, its serious crimes had increased by 93 percent, causing its police force to double in size. (1995 Report of Maryland Attorney General, Joseph Curran)
- In 1990, voters in three Colorado mining towns approved a referendum allowing casinos. In just two years in Central City, assaults and thefts increased 400 percent while there were 8 times the number of arrests for drunken driving. The other towns' experiences were similar and all three were forced to increase their police forces.
- Voters in Florida rejected a November 1994 ballot initiative that would have introduced casinos statewide. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement had reported "Casinos will result in more Floridians and visitors being robbed, raped, assaulted, and otherwise injured. Casinos are not worth the gamble."
- In February 2009 the new HPD Chief, Louis Kealoha was quoted in the Advertiser, "Because of the lure of easy money . . . it [gambling] will attract organized crime and encourage public corruption. . . . We cannot support something that would strengthen the criminal element."
- The definitive academic study on new crime caused by increased gambling found that crime increased 8 to 10 percent after a gambling facility opened in a new county and continually increased thereafter. (Grinols and David B. Mustard, Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. Review of Economics and Statistics, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2006.)

Net Negative Economic Impact

While it may be true that legalized casino gambling would bring new jobs for some, the potentially even greater negative economic impact must also be considered.

- Jobs within the gambling industry are often low-paying. In 1991, the New Jersey Casino Control Commission found that nearly two-thirds of casino employees made \$25,000 or less annually.
- Other, established local businesses, such as restaurants may suffer once gambling is legalized and business is pulled away. Within 10 years after the introduction of casinos in Atlantic City, 40 percent of the city's restaurants went out of business. (Hinds, Michael deCourcy. (1994). "Riverboat Casinos Seek a Home in Pennsylvania," New York Times, April 7.
- Finally, other gambling-related costs such as infrastructure expenditures, regulatory costs, criminal justice system expenses, and social-welfare costs, may result in more taxpayer dollars spent than are received from gambling revenue. Florida's Office of Planning and Budgeting concluded "Additional projected state tax revenues related to casinos are sufficient to address only 8 to 13 percent of annual projected costs related to casinos."

High Social Costs

- Not unlike the social costs associated with other addictive behaviors, compulsive gambling wreaks havoc on individuals, families, and communities.
- Child and spousal abuse rates have risen dramatically in Deadwood, South Dakota, Biloxi, Mississippi, Central City Colorado after the introduction of legalized gambling.
- Drug and alcohol abuse, along with reported rates of suicide attempts are all alarmingly higher among those with severe gambling problems.
- A Harvard Medical School Professor has warned of gambling's impact on youth: "We're going to have major issues with youth gambling that will equal or eclipse the problems that we have with (youth) substance abuse . . ." The American Psychological Association recently indicated that 5% to 8% of young Americans and Canadians reported a "serious" gambling problem. (Philadelphia Inquirer 8/16/98)
- Repeated studies have shown that those most likely to gamble are those who are least able to afford it. A study of the 17 Native American casinos in Wisconsin concluded Wisconsin gamblers "are not the affluent people of Wisconsin. Their numbers are skewed toward the poorer-income categories and the elderly."

(Information excerpted from Focus on the Family's You Bet Your Life, The Dangerous Repercussions of America's Gambling Addiction, 1996)

Should Hawaii Be Like Las Vegas: Casino Gambling's Devastating Community Effects

OK. Let's begin with the obvious. Lots of people in Hawaii travel to Las Vegas for fun and recreation. Those visits are 100% irrelevant to the simple issue at hand - should Hawaii become more like Las Vegas by legalizing gambling? To answer the question, we really should examine the data about what it is like to live in a place like Vegas.

This data should serve as a clarion call for all of us - a reminder of the compelling reasons the people of Hawaii and our elected representatives have consistently and steadfastly resisted the siren song of the big money gambling interests. It reminds us why "the Las Vegas effect" upon our islands would wreak havoc on our ohana based community and our aloha spirit.

There are probably a few things you have never heard about Nevada. The point of the information is not to moralize against the perennial Vegas visit, but to remind people why we should resist any semblance of the Vegas scene here in our communities.

For the big money casino cartels, Vegas is #1. Number one alright - but did you know the following? According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census and other reputable sources, Nevada boasts the following -- #1 in suicides; -- #1 in divorce; -- #1 in high school dropouts; -- and #1 in the number of women killed by men. Grim. But there is more.

Nevada is also number three in bankruptcies and abortions. Number four in rape, out of wedlock births and alcohol related death. Number five in crime, number six in prisoners locked up and number 50 in voter participation. This and other well-documented information is available through the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. In response to these data, the Coalition's response seems appropriate: "Not in my Backyard." Shouldn't that be our collective community response?

But what else do the data show generally about the corrosive effects of legalized gambling? In March of 1998, a St. Louis newspaper reported nearly 1 in 5 homeless people admit that gambling contributed to their poverty and 37% of those admit they continue to gamble. Did you know five to eight percent of adolescents are already addicted to gambling? How about that 75% of pathological gamblers in one study admitted to perpetrating a felony to support their addiction? That even casino owner Donald Trump admits when casinos come in "local business will suffer because they'll lose customer dollars to the casinos?" Do we really need any more suffering among our small business owners?

And that's just the beginning. According to Dr. John Kindt of the University of Illinois, legalized gambling in Hawaii would also surely bring the ABCs of gambling - increased addiction, increased bankruptcies, and increased crime and corruption. Would we really want to invite more of these things to our island paradise?

It's these and other concerns that convinced Congress in 1996 to form the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. And even though the commission is stacked with many gambling industry pals, it will nevertheless be recommending the following in its June 18 final report: a moratorium on new casinos and lotteries; an increase in the minimum betting age to 21; a ban on collegiate sports betting; stricter limits on the political influence of the gambling industry; and more resources to address the growing problem of gambling addiction.

It seems to me Hawaii is rather akamai for its continued rejection of legalized gambling. As we all know, Hawaii is special. This issue is no different - we are one of only three states in the nation that can boast of no legalized gambling. Let's work hard to keep it that way!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: Emerson Lewis [brndtlws@clearwire.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:48 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: Re: Hearing Bill #HB2759 regarding Gaming -held in conference room 329 at 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday, February 3, 2010

OPPOSED

LATE TESTIMONY

Attn: Hawaiian Affairs Chairwoman, Mele Carroll
Vice Chairwoman, Maile Shumabukuro

Testimony of Bernadette P. Lewis, resident of Hawaiian Homelands:

I am against gaming on Hawaiian Homelands. I can just see how this would impact our families. I, myself, do not gamble but I know of friends and family members who do. It becomes an addiction to them. You always see them asking for money and saying to you that they will pay you back. The wages that they've earned through their employment is gone. The bills become secondary and are not paid. Financial stress kicks in. The family's income is no more. The children suffer. The breaking up of the family may be inevitable. Some lives may be lost because of accumulated debt not being repaid by deals made with unlikely individuals. By allowing gaming on Hawaiian Homelands, what kind of message are we sending to our children? I know that the State needs money and is trying all kinds of ways to get the money,-----BUT PLEASE, NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FAMILY!!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Rep. Della Au Belati | Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto |
| Rep. Joe Bertram, III | Rep. Ryan I. Yamane |
| Rep. Tom Brower | Rep. Gene Ward |
| Rep. John M. Mizuno | |

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 2759
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chairman Rep. Mele Carroll and members of the committee, my name is Lynn DeCoite and I am a homestead farmer and rancher on the island of Molokai and I support HB 2759. I feel this bill is critical to the survival of our economy. This bill will help this economy get back out of the hole that it has fallen into.

The taxpayers like myself can no longer suffer the burden of more taxes. In a regulated environment this can be successful, and help employ jobs, a diversity of jobs in Hawaii. This is the boost that we need right now.

For those reasons I support HB 2759