

clee1 - Lina

From: Nishimura, Lori [lnishimura@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:16 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: McEntire, John; Inouye, Jerry J.
Subject: Testimony of Mayor Peter Carlisle on HB 2379
Attachments: 2012 hb2379.tes.doc

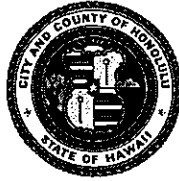
Please find attached the testimony of Mayor Peter Carlisle, City and County of Honolulu on HB 2379 which is scheduled to be heard by the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee on February 1, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Thanks!

Lori Nishimura
Mayor's Executive Assistant
Office of the Managing Director
City and County of Honolulu
(808) 768-4370

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 * HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 * FAX: (808) 768-4242 * INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CHRYSTN K. A. EADS
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Faye Hanohano, Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

RE: Testimony of Mayor Peter Carlisle on H.B. 2379, Relating to Gaming.

Chair Hanohano and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor Peter Carlisle submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 2379.

The purpose of this bill is to provide statutory authority for the Hawaiian Home Commission to allow gaming operations on Hawaiian home lands.

I understand the allure of gambling as a quick and attractive fix to our economic problems. However, I oppose the introduction of casino gambling because I believe any economic benefits provided by gambling are far outweighed by increased crime rates and social costs to families whose incomes may be substantially affected by chronic gambling.

It has been shown that gambling acts as a regressive tax which falls most heavily on those who can least afford it. In addition, it has been estimated that the rate of problem or pathological gamblers in Hawaii's population will range from 1.4% to over 6% of the residents. These gamblers will first borrow from friends or family and when that is no longer possible, they often turn to stealing from friends, family and employers. Even without legalized gambling opportunities in the state, we have seen cases involving a county treasurer and a county relocation officer who stole county funds in order to pay off large gambling debts. I believe that instances like this may become more frequent and severe if legalized casino gambling is permitted and more accessible in Hawaii.

I would like to point out to that even without gambling, Hawaii already attracts visitors with our beautiful scenery, wonderful climate and unique culture. And as most tourists visit here with a finite budget, I fear that the money they currently spend in our local shops and restaurants will be spent on gaming instead.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you.

cleel1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 6:38 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: rapanui27@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2379.docx

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dovelina Borges
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rapanui27@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

Comments:

Doveline Borges
91-212 Koanimakani Place
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

January 28, 2012

TESTIMONY ON HB 2379
GAMING
FEBRUARAY 2, 2012
ROOM 329 AT 0830 HOURS

Aloha:

Chair Faye P. Hanohano , Vice Chair Chris Lee, members of the committee.

As a Native Hawaiian, I am not in support of allowing any kind of gaming on Hawaiian Homelands. In as much as I support any kind of funding that would assist the Department of Hawaiian Homelands in placing applicants on homestead lands, this is not a measure that I support.

If House Bill 2379 becomes law, the next step would be a measure to place casinos on Hawaiian Homelands. Gambling and gaming is a double-edged sword. For anyone who would think of doing so has no true understanding of the plight and oppression of Native Hawaiians since the overthrow of our Queen, Liliuokalani. Let us keep our perspective on how we use Hawaiian Homelands.

Sincerely,

Doveline Borges
Kapolei, Hawaii

cleel1 - Lina

From: Hawaii Family Forum [info@hawaiifamilyforum.org]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:20 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: CARDINES, Allen
Subject: Testimony on HB2379 Relating to Gaming | HAW Committee on 02/01/12 @ 8:30 a.m. in room 329
Attachments: HB2379_122001_HAW_gaming_HFF.pdf

Please find testimony attached for the following committee hearing:

TESTIFIER: Allen Cardines, Jr. Executive Director
BILL AND TITLE: HB 2379 Relating to Gaming
POSITION: Opposition
COMMITTEE: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
DATE AND TIME OF HEARING: February 1, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m. in room 329

Allen Cardines, executive director, will be attending the hearing.

Please contact 221-4022 with any questions.

Mahalo!



Email to: HAWTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room #329

DATE: January 30, 2012

TO: **House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**
Representative Fay Hanohano, Chair
Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Strong Opposition to: HB 2379 Relating to Gaming

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Allen Cardines, representing the Hawaii Family Forum. 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 strongly oppose this bill that allows gaming on Hawaiian homelands.

We should be proud that Hawaii is among only two States (Utah and Hawaii) in the nation where all forms of gambling remain illegal. Proponents of legalized gambling in Hawaii boast of its promise of economic revitalization and prosperity. This may sound like a good idea for Hawaii but greater scrutiny reveals a far different story. While it may be true that legalized gambling could potentially yield new jobs, the potential greater negative economic impact must also be considered. Not unlike the social costs associated with other addictive behaviors, compulsive gambling wreaks havoc on individuals, families, and communities.

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.

Gambling is often associated with crime. The relationship is easy to understand. Many types of gambling have been, indeed still are, illegal. Hence, by definition, criminals are the only operators of games. When gambling restrictions are relaxed, criminals are the first to open up legal gambling establishments.

Page Two

We should also point out 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 that 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.

How does Nevada rate in the nation? Nevada is 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 this data, the Coalition's response seems appropriate: "Not in my Backyard." Shouldn't that be our collective community response?

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.

cleel1 - Lina

From: Andrade, Eva [eandrade@rcchawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:40 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: YOSHIMITSU, Walter
Subject: Testimony for HB 2379 Relating to Gaming | House HAW Committee on February 1, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.
Attachments: HB2379_HAW_120201_gaming_HCC.pdf

Please find testimony attached from the Hawaii Catholic Conference for the following hearing:

BILL NUMBER: HB 2379 Relating to Gaming

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

HEARING DATE AND TIME: February 1, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.

ROOM #: 329

Submitted by:

Walter Yoshimitsu
Executive Director
Hawaii Catholic Conference



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: HAWTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room #329

DATE: January 30, 2012

TO: House Committee on Hawaii Affairs
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to HB 2379 RELATING TO GAMING

I am Walter Yoshimitsu, representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva. We oppose this measure that would allow gaming on Hawaiian home lands.

The Catholic Church holds that gambling becomes morally problematic when it interferes with an individual's other duties or responsibilities. Observing that "the passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement," the Catechism of the Catholic Church highlights the need for moderation to avoid addictions and unhealthy behaviors.

In sharing the Catholic theological perspective on gambling, we are also aware of and very concerned about other important and related aspects of the issue that would serve to make specific pieces of gambling legislation morally unacceptable. We believe that the promotion of the common good of society and the protection of individual rights is always to be the primary goal of public policy. Accordingly, the potential negative consequences of an expanded "culture of gambling" needs to be carefully evaluated.

Please OPPOSE any legislation that would bring casino gambling to Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 12:54 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: admin@phocused-hawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB2379_HHLGaming.pdf

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nicole Brodie
Organization: PHOCUSED
E-mail: admin@phocused-hawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:



PHOCUSED

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Board of Directors

*Howard Garval, Chair
Nanci Kreidman, Vice Chair
Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair
Sandra Yoro, Secretary
Jerry Rauckhorst, Treasurer
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Jan Dill
Victor Geminiani
Marya Grambs
Kathi Hasegawa
Robert Piper
Ruthann Quitiquit
Alan Shinn
Laura Smith*

Executive Director

Alex Santiago

TO: Faye Hanohano, Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alex Santiago, Executive Director
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children,
UnderServed, Elderly and Disabled)

HEARING DATE: February 1, 2012

RE: Opposing HB 2379, Authorizing the Hawaiian homes commission to
allow gaming on Hawaiian home lands

Chair Hanohano and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, I am Alex Santiago, the Executive Director of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii. PHOCUSED is opposed to this measure.

As advocates for the Health and Human Services sector we are concerned about the long-term negative social impacts gaming will have on our state and the people for whom we advocate. While we recognize the need to raise revenues, we feel strongly that this is not the best way to go about doing that.

PHOCUSED respectfully requests that this measure be held in committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

cleel1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 1:43 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: apohi21@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: Objection to H. B. 2379, Relating to Gaming.doc

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Brown
Organization: Aupuni O Hawaii
E-mail: apohi21@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2379, RELATING TO GAMING

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 01, 2012, 8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Hanohano and committee members,

We are Aupuni O Hawaii with voices in the Hawaiian Islands for we are a stalwart advocate for the betterment of native Hawaiians. We believe in nonpartisanship when it comes to working with governmental agencies on our behalf, however, when we discovered a conflict of language interpretation like this bill whom assumes a power of arbitration in its existences before its passage as well as to take capital away from our pockets by marginalizing our Federal status, and lastly an undue governmental double dipping in commerce in the name of the commission authority and its agencies. With that said, your constituents in the Hawaiian Islands have a lot of concerns on this proposed law when it comes to the betterment of native Hawaiians before this committee. We have strong reservation on supporting such bill cause of the dubious and laundering words contain in this measure.

For example, a Law taken out of context is like an attorney general's opinion on a hot dog case that is construed to symbolism versus merits. You have a conflicting measurement whose languages are in controversy for the purpose of establishing gaming on Hawaiian home lands. One bill says *ONE* site only and this bill declares in Section 1 (SA) (2) Designate the specific parcel(s) upon which gaming shall be allowed. Now you have a plural intent of action in this section which is future tense meaning more than one and we believe opens the door for more gaming/casinos versus what was quoted in measure HB1225 section 2 (5). Furthermore another example in the use of subtlety prose in its intent of broadening use of the word "Departments," what started out as the Department of Hawaiian Homes (created in 63') entitlement is being mitigated under HB1225 Part 2 section (1) pg. 7 line 14 to include the Department of Consumers and Affairs. We find this bill's instrumental to be an insurrection to HHCA of 1920 without the approval of US Congress by the state of Hawaii and its illegal amendments to create commerce for itself with a paltry return to the native Hawaiians.

We also learned of the intent of this bill is ambiguous at best with added burdens on Public Law 34 compact with the 67th US Congress for its beneficiaries on trust lands. In section 2(3) of this bill, in pursuant to define a title's roll in this bill for the subjugation of monies that were prearranged to the compact and now to be define as an "undertaking" under part III of chapter 39, HRS called Revenue Bonds for the levies away from a sovereign trust into a foreign entity, a looming act of conflict! Also, we became aware of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust fund created for the state's purpose of added burden to the native Hawaiians by means of fleecing with another created agency that will no doubt cook the books and leave the native Hawaiians high and dry. The truth of the matter is the HHCA is an entity that has federal mandates to stand alone and yet the incursion we read and see in this bill is a continue authority given to the state's governor for the siphoning of our trust funds furthermore like the past insurrection of the committee of safety by Sanford Dole to proclaim himself president of the United

States. The governor of the state of Hawaii has made himself the head commissioner for HHCA by a ghost authority in superseding frequency of smoke and mirrors.

The definition of commerce is the buying and selling of goods, esp. when done on a large scale between cities, states, or country; trade. This is not the case with this bill because the language proposes in a rule of thumb of integrating other agencies to propagate its industry. In HB1225 a subject matter runs consistently with this bill, divides the spoils of commerce on foreign lands subjugating by a still existing authority, "The Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands." The undue taxes writing in this bill asks to provide that moneys deposited pursuant to section – omitted or yet to be amended? -4(b), HRS for capitol improvements and other purposes undertaking in furtherance of the Act [[□□□-] have yet to be made law or named.]] We continue to see the taking away of money from the native Hawaiians and that's not good.

What we are saying the compact can stand alone and need not be disseminated by a foreign entity of questionable status. Let us boldly profess with the objective of 18 USCS § 921 that honors the agreement between nations contrary to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the Constitution in dealing with duties throughout the United States, we find this bill to be harmful and egregious to the native Hawaiians. **Aupuni O Hawaii** cannot support this bill for its misappropriation of levies to support itself off of the backs of the native (Kanaka Maoli) Hawaiian and the unsavory benefits that comes with gambling in the one percent tax proposal to combat these crisis that are within these measures for it will only scratch the surface on created problems and generate more undue taxes for the contention of public safety. 'A'ohe kohu iki, the trickle down theory does not work for us!

Me ka Ha'aha'a
Samson and Bill Brown
Aupuni O Hawaii, Board Members
January 30, 2012

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:55 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: konalajr@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donald W. Baldwin Jr.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: konalajr@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I absolutely oppose HB2379. Family relationships are more important than using this as a economy reason. Let's look at other better sources to build our economy.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:16 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: hulahands87@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dara N. Saifoloi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hulahands87@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2379. We do not need more crimes and individual/family problems. Is the dollar more important than family values. Find other ways to help the economy.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:23 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: dorabaldwin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Doralynn Baldwin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dorabaldwin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2379. It will ruin individual and family lives and crime will increase.

cleee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:11 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: jkarbens@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John P. Karbens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkarbens@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I respectfully request that legalized gambling not be allowed in Hawaii under any conditions, including land areas designated as Hawaiian Homestead Lands. Similar bills in prior years generated strong opposition from various organizations which represent Native Hawaiians.
Mahalo, John P. Karbens

cleef - Lina

From: ashinn@drugfreehawaii.org
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:08 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: SB 2379
Attachments: Testimony in Opposition SB2379 Gaming.doc

Please accept my testimony in opposition to SB 2379 - Relating to Gaming to be heard on:

February 1, 2012
8:30 am
Conference Room 329
by the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Thank you,

Alan Shinn
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2379– Relating to Gaming

February 1, 2012

TO: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Faye Hanohano, Chair
Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair

FR: Alan Shinn, Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A-259
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 545-3228 x2

Please accept this testimony in opposition to SB 2379– *Relating to Gaming*. The Legislature is searching for new revenue sources and ways to stimulate the economy of Hawaii. While this effort is commendable, the negative social impact on Hawaii and its people will outweigh any gain in gaming revenues. One of these negative consequences is problem gambling, a serious chronic and addictive behavior that is associated with individual, family and community dysfunction, much like alcohol and drug abuse disorders.

What has happened in States with legal gaming is the increased need for specific prevention, intervention and treatment programs for problem gamblers and their families. While the gaming industry has funded some of these programs, there has been a “spill over” effect with additional service and fiscal burden on other social services such as child and adult welfare, domestic violence prevention, the judiciary, law enforcement, and substance abuse services to name a few.

There must be other and better ways to increase revenues that benefit Hawaii and its people.

cleel - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:18 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: mdfkay@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB2379 testimony.doc

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Dianne F. Kay
Organization: Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling
E-mail: mdfkay@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 209
Honolulu, HI 96813
HICALG.org

Member Organizations

Advocates for Consumer Rights
Animal Rights Hawaii
Buddhist Peace Fellowship
Christian Voice of Hawaii
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church of Perfect Liberty
Common Cause Hawaii
Disciples of Christ
Hale Kipa
Hawaii Assemblies of God
Hawaii Association of International Buddhists
Hawaii Christian Coalition
Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
Hawaii District United Methodist Church
Hawaii Family Forum
Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention
Hawaii Rainbow Coalition
Hawaii Religions for Peace
Hawaii Youth Services Network
Honolulu Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Honolulu Police Department
Institute for Religion and Social Change
The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii
Kokua Council
League of Women Voters of Hawaii
Life of the Land (Hawaii)
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Hawaii
Mestizo Association
Muslim Association & Islamic Center of Hawaii
Pacific Gateway Center
Presbytery of the Pacific
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Smart Business Hawaii
Soto Zen Mission of Hawaii
Temple Emanu-El
Windward Coalition of Churches
The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands (UCC)

Cooperating Organizations

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
Catholic Diocese of Honolulu
Hawaii Bankers Association
Hawaii Business Roundtable
Hawaii State PTSA
Hawaiian Humane Society

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Wednesday, February 01, 2012
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

OPPOSED TO HB2379 RELATING TO GAMING

My name is Dianne Kay and I am President of the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Our coalition represents extremely diverse groups in the community including civic, religious, political, public health, law enforcement, education, business, senior citizen, youth, animal rights, environment, and other community organizations, but we are united in our commitment to educate the public about the negative social and economic effects of legalized gambling and to prevent the introduction of legalized gambling into the state of Hawaii. We believe the detrimental effects of introducing gambling would include social and economic costs that would be borne by our community such as addiction, abuse, divorce, suicide, work absences, welfare, homelessness, incarceration, and bankruptcy, that would far exceed any monetary benefits. Crime would increase and local businesses and entertainment venues would shut down as the mainland gambling industry drained resources from these islands.

To amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act by allowing gambling on Hawaiian home lands would seem to violate the Purpose of the Act as found in Section 101 (b) (5) which states that financial support will be provided "to native Hawaiian beneficiaries of this Act so that by pursuing strategies to enhance economic self-sufficiency . . . the traditions, culture and quality of life of native Hawaiians shall be forever self-sustaining." Further, in Section 101 (c) the Kingdom of Hawaii, the United States, and the State of Hawaii "affirm their fiduciary duty to administer the provisions of this Act on behalf of the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Act."

We believe the state would be abrogating its fiduciary responsibility by allowing gambling to be introduced on Hawaiian home lands. This action would exploit native Hawaiians for the benefit of mainland gambling interests, and their culture and quality of life would diminish.

The Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling has a motto—"Don't Gamble with Aloha." We respectfully ask the members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee to vote against HB2379.

cleel1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:43 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

The Hawaii League of Women Voters and the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling oppose HB2379. The establishment of any form of gambling carries social and infrastructure costs that often are not quantifiable. Studies show that gambling ventures draw from existing businesses to the extent that they may not be revenue positive. In 1997, the DBEDT prepared a lengthy study at the legislature's request. They observed that "the social costs of crime and pathological gambling that can be caused by legal gaming were not quantified and were not included in the measure of cost. Hence, the economic and fiscal impacts derived from the report may be less or perhaps negative." Two years later, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, established by Congress, recommended no further expansion of gambling.

We are concerned that once gambling is legal in Hawaii, that the considerable resources of the industry will come into play, affecting many aspects of life here. Their interests are narrowly focused, and they do not always go hand in hand with what is best for the people of this state.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dursin
Hawaii League of Women Voters Legislative Committee
Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling Board Member

cleel - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:19 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: victor@lejehawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB2379 Testimony.pdf

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Victor Geminiani
Organization: Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice
E-mail: victor@lejehawaii.org
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:



Board of Directors

David Derauf, M.D.
Marc Fleischaker, Esq.
Naomi C. Fujimoto, Esq.
Patrick Gardner, Esq.
Francis T. O'Brien, Esq.
David J. Reber, Esq.

Executive Director

Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Date: January 31, 2012

To: Senator Faye Hanohano, Senate Chair, Committee for Hawaiian Affairs

From: Victor Geminiani, Executive Director

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Re: Testimony in opposition of HB2379

Scheduled for a hearing on February 1, 2012

Dear Chair Hanohano and committee members;

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB2379 which would authorize the Hawaiian Homes commission to allow gaming on Hawaiian homeland. My name is Victor Geminiani and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (formerly Lawyers for Equal Justice). Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (LEJ) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance and to complement the assistance provided by existing legal services providers in the state. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

LEJ has been examining the potential impact of gambling on Hawai'i's low income residents. A copy of our draft research memo on the effect of gambling is attached to this testimony. Multiple studies from around the country have shown that gambling has a disproportionate negative impact on low-income individuals and disadvantaged communities. We are opposed to introducing gambling in any form for the following reasons:

- Legalized gambling and lotteries are unlikely to solve Hawaii's economic issues. Moreover, based on other states' experiences, even if Hawai'i did recognize some economic gains, gambling revenues are unlikely to fund services for the poor.
- Not only do low income people generally fail to receive many benefits from gambling revenues, but they bear the brunt of gambling's economic harms by experiencing a form of regressive taxation and predatory practices.
- The presence of casinos has a tendency to increase problem or pathological gambling, particularly for residents of disadvantaged, low-income neighborhoods. Their presence has also been shown to increase crime in the area.

Given the empirically demonstrated harms of gambling, Hawai'i should not turn to gambling as a quick fix for budget shortfalls. Again, thank you for providing us with an opportunity to testify in opposition to HB2379.

Aloha,

Victor Geminiani,
Executive Director

cleel1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:27 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2379

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Crystal Kia Paul
Organization: Individual
E-mail: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Since this is to allow gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands 95% of the money should go to the Hawaiian Home Land Trust and 5% to the General Fund to cover administrative fees.

Public Access Room

From: edward furukawa [gracehf@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Public Access Room
Subject: Testimony - Please send for hearing tomorrow

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII
49 S. Hotel Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, HI 96813

TO; FAYE HANO HANO, CHAIR HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND COMMITTEE

FROM: GRACE FURUKAWA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RE: HB 2379, RELATING TO GAMBLING

DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012 AT 8:30 AM

PLACE; CONFERENCE ROOM 329

Ms. chair and members, thank you for hearing this testimony. The League of Women Voters is against any form of legalized gambling. Many reasons could be quoted against casino, lottery and slot machines. They are the same reasons whether these are in Waikiki or Hawaiian homelands. Studies have shown that casinos, lotteries or slots are most frequented by citizens within a 15 miles radius. These people all use their discretionary money that could be used for food, clothes or luxuries bought in our local stores. Do you want your jobs in the casinos and the money earned to be received on the backs of our own people. More than half of the profits go to the owners out of state. And also think of the traffic congestion, noise and drinking that will be present at all hours,

I urge you not to pass this bill.

Grace Furukawa
Manoa
988-3532