
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GAMBLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that gambling presents a
2 critical issue for any functioning society. One of the oldest
3 vices known to man, gambling is both an addiction as well as a
4 social menace. There have been numerous reports across the state
5 of illegal gambling rooms, and it has been well-documented that
6 cracking down on these operations is no easy task.

7 The legislature also finds that the current laws regarding
8 gambling machines further complicate a potential criminal
9 situation. The ownership and even operation of gambling machines
10 in certain circumstances is legal, creating a situation that can
11 entice gambling operations.

12 The legislature further finds that in order to combat
13 gambling in the state, it is necessary to outlaw the possession
14 of gambling machines and devices that are frequently used in
15 illegal gambling operations.



1 The purpose of this Act is to curb illegal gambling by
2 prohibiting the possession and ownership of gambling machines
3 larger than one cubic foot.

4 SECTION 2. Section 712-1226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "**§712-1226 Possession of a gambling device.** (1) A person
7 commits the offense of possession of a gambling device of any
8 size larger than the dimensions of one cubic foot if the person
9 manufactures, sells, transports, places, possesses, or conducts
10 or negotiates any transaction affecting or designed to affect
11 ownership, custody, or use of any gambling device [~~knowing it~~
12 ~~is to be used in the advancement of gambling activity which is~~
13 ~~not social gambling.~~].

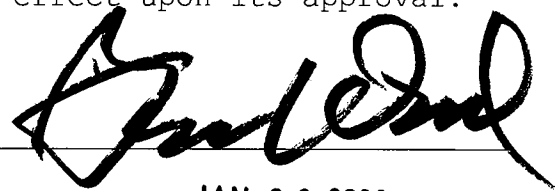
14 (2) Possession of a gambling device is a misdemeanor."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 459

Report Title:

Possession of gambling machines; increased penalty.

Description:

Prohibits the possession and ownership of gambling machines larger than one cubic foot.

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HB HMIA 2023-18-02

