
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF LEGALIZING SPORTS
BETTING.

1 WHEREAS, on May 14, 2018, the United States Supreme Court
2 reversed a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for
3 the Third Circuit, effectively allowing states to authorize
4 sports betting; and

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6 WHEREAS, since this ruling, thirty-eight states have
7 legalized sports betting; and

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9 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Hawaii residents wager on the
10 outcome of sporting events through illegal websites that are not
11 subject to regulation or taxation; and

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13 WHEREAS, it is estimated that online gambling by Hawaii
14 residents generates tens of millions of dollars for gambling
15 organizations without any benefit to the State; and

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17 WHEREAS, West Virginia, a state with a similar population
18 to Hawaii, collected more than \$2,800,000 in taxes in the first
19 year after legalizing sports betting; and

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21 WHEREAS, legalizing and regulating sports betting can
22 reduce issues of underage betting and ensure that proper
23 consumer protections are in place; and

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25 WHEREAS, numerous studies have found associations between
26 sports betting and damaging behaviors, such as problem gambling;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, according to the National Council on Problem
30 Gambling, two million adults in the United States have a severe
31 gambling problem; and
32



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1 WHEREAS, some states that have legalized sports betting
2 have experienced substantial increases in the amount of gambling
3 addiction hotline calls; and

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5 WHEREAS, the State must consider the potential benefits and
6 consequences of sports betting in order to make an informed
7 decision on its legalization; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2024, that the Department of Business, Economic
12 Development, and Tourism is requested to study the potential
13 effects of legalizing sports betting; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
16 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
17 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
18 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
19 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
23 Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 8 2024

