

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1523-24

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 28, 2024

RE: H.R. No. 94
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development, to which was referred H.R. No. 94 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF A STATE LOTTERY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to convene a working group to examine the feasibility of a state lottery.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Your Committee finds that according to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, forty-four states and the District of Columbia offer lotteries in the United States. Gallup polls have found that state lotteries are the most popular form of gambling in the United States, with roughly half of respondents saying they purchased a lottery ticket in the past twelve months. In 2021, Americans spent \$105.26 billion on lottery tickets, and state governments on average take in about a third of each lottery jackpot in taxes and revenue.

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Your Committee recognizes that Hawaii is one of the few remaining jurisdictions without a state lottery. Your Committee believes that a working group should be convened to study whether a state lottery would be feasible.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism states in its testimony that for the project to be completed at the scope and timeline as requested in this measure, the Department would need \$200,000 in state funds to hire a research company to prepare the feasibility study.

Your Committee further notes that the Department currently has vacancies for economist positions and recommends extending the deadline to submit the report to the Legislature to twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2026 to give the Department time to fill the economist positions and conduct the study in house.

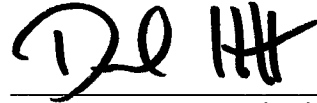
Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit its report examining the feasibility of a state lottery to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 94, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 94, H.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Economic
Development,



DANIEL HOLT, Chair



