



February 3, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT of HB1527**, Relating to Gambling

To: Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1527, Relating to Gambling

Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 411, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports HB1527** which prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site, keeps University of Hawaii teams out of gambling-operated venues, as it **aligns with our mission to advance the safety, health, and well-being of women and girls in Hawaii**. This bill is significant to our work as it addresses the potential for increased risk of exploitation, abuse, and harm that can be associated with gambling enterprises, particularly in areas accessible to youth and families, such as the Aloha Stadium Development District. Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. If we can't afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built.

Research and experiences from other jurisdictions suggest that the presence of gambling facilities can be linked to higher rates of violence, trafficking, and exploitation, disproportionately impacting women and girls. With a dedicated rail stop at the site, **a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gambling on public land, increasing exposure and harm.**

By prohibiting casinos and gambling enterprises on state lands within or adjacent to the Aloha Stadium project and restricting University of Hawaii athletic programs from competing in venues integrated with gambling operations, **this bill helps to protect vulnerable populations** from environments that may foster predatory behaviors or exacerbate social harms. Additionally, the [NCAA has found that 1 in 3 student-athletes face harassment from angry bettors](#), and **this bill will protect our athletes and families**, in alignment with our values.

We respectfully recommend continued vigilance in monitoring the implementation of these prohibitions to ensure that loopholes are not exploited, that the safety of women, girls, student athletes, and families remain a priority, and **urge this Committee to pass HB1527**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
HB1527
RELATING TO GAMBLING.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Legislature has directed the Stadium Authority to deliver a competitive, modern facility capable of attracting not only sporting events, but also major entertainment, cultural, and community uses. Facilities of this scale and quality across the country are no longer single-purpose stadiums, they are integrated districts that serve as economic engines, year-round destinations, and catalysts for surrounding development.

However, the cost environment has changed significantly. At the same time, the Authority is being asked to advance development of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) in parallel, which includes roads, utilities, drainage, structured parking, and other core infrastructure that must be funded upfront before vertical development can occur.

Because of this gap between original public appropriations and current total project costs (stadium + district infrastructure), it is critical that all viable public-private partnership tools remain on the table. If financing mechanisms are prematurely restricted, the financial burden does not disappear, it shifts back to the taxpayers or results in a scaled-down facility that cannot compete regionally or nationally. Either outcome undermines the Legislature's own direction to deliver a world-class venue and successful district.

This bill proposes a prohibition framework related to gambling activities within the district. While the policy questions surrounding gambling are significant and deserve careful consideration, it is important to recognize that the State has already established a formal process to evaluate this issue.

Pursuant to SCR 121, the Legislature requested the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism to convene a Tourism and Gaming Working Group. The resolution directs the working group to:

- Research gaming experiences in other states, including revenues and regulatory costs
- Examine the potential for gaming activities at the NASED and other locations
- Develop a comprehensive policy framework addressing economic, social, regulatory, and enforcement considerations
- Evaluate impacts on tourism, economic development, and public services
- Submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature prior to the 2027 Regular Session

This was intentionally structured as a data-driven, cross-agency, and multi-disciplinary review involving economic, legal, social services, public health, taxation, and law enforcement perspectives. Acting to prohibit a category of activity at this stage, before that analysis is complete, may pre-determine policy outcomes that the Legislature has already asked to be studied in a comprehensive manner.

In other words, the State is mid-process on a formal evaluation of tourism-related gaming policy, including specific consideration of NASED. It may therefore be prudent to allow that work to conclude before establishing permanent statutory restrictions tied to a district that is still in early development and financing stages.

This is not a statement in favor of or against gambling policy. Rather, it is a recommendation for sequencing:

1. Allow the Gaming Working Group to complete its analysis and policy framework;
2. Understand the full economic, regulatory, and social implications;
3. Evaluate how those findings interact with the financial model and long-term viability of NASED; and
4. Then make informed statutory decisions.

Given the scale of public investment, the competitiveness expectations placed on the Stadium Authority, and the financing realities of both the stadium and district infrastructure, maintaining flexibility while the State's own working group completes its

DBEDT Testimony
HB1527
February 5, 2026
Page 3 of 3

assignment may help protect taxpayers, preserve optionality, and support sound long-term planning.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DBEDT DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DBEDT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

WALTER THOEMMES
CHAIR, STADIUM AUTHORITY

MICHAEL R. YADAO
INTERIM STADIUM MANAGER



Statement of
MICHAEL R. YADAO
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 05, 2026
09:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
H.B. 1527
RELATING TO GAMBLING.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee.
The Stadium Authority respectfully oppose House Bill 1527, which prohibits any casino, gambling enterprise, or gambling facility from being located on state lands within or adjacent to the Aloha Stadium Development District project area or on any lands under the jurisdiction of the Stadium Authority.

The Current Economic Reality

The Legislature has set clear expectations for the Stadium Authority: to deliver a competitive, world-class facility capable of attracting global sports, premier concerts, and major revenue-generating events that ensure long-term project viability. However, the economic landscape for such projects has shifted significantly:

- **Escalating Construction Costs:** Nationally, the cost of delivering high caliber stadiums are currently trending up. Since the Legislature approved the initial appropriation for the new stadium, construction costs have risen significantly due to a combination of global and domestic economic factors. The industry has experienced sustained inflation in the price of key building materials such as

steel, aluminum, concrete, and electrical components—many of which have been affected by federal tariffs and international trade disruptions. Collectively, these conditions have materially altered the financial assumptions that existed at the time of the original budget authorization and continue to present challenges for projects of this magnitude.

- **Dual-Track Infrastructure Demands:** The Stadium Authority is tasked with simultaneous delivery of both the stadium and the broader New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED). This requires substantial upfront investment in "horizontal" infrastructure, utilities, site work, and access before any revenue-generating private "vertical" development can begin.

The Policy Tradeoff

To meet these mandates without placing an undue burden on the public, the Stadium Authority requires maximum flexibility in its financing and partnership models. When potential revenue mechanisms or public-private partnership tools are removed from consideration, the underlying funding gap is not eliminated; rather, the financial responsibility is shifted directly back to the State's general fund and, ultimately, to the taxpayers. Maintaining a full suite of financing options is essential to balancing the NASED project's ambitious goals with fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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THOMAS J. BRADY
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HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**
Thirty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i

February 4, 2026

RE: H.B. 1527; RELATING TO GAMBLING.

Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee on Water and Land, my name is Steve Alm, and I am the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in **strong support** to House Bill 1527.

Your effort to protect Hawai'i residents and, in particular, University of Hawai'i athletes is commendable.

Legalized gambling has been shown to cause crime increases in surrounding areas. Locally, research by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women pointed to the risk of casinos increasing sex trafficking in our community. A federal study found that "casino patrons were 17% more likely than the average survey respondents to pay for sex in the past year." Hawai'i already has a severe problem with sex trafficking and we should be careful not to do anything to make it worse.

The intersection of sports and gambling is already causing huge problems nationally. If a casino is approved for the Aloha Stadium development district or anywhere else, legalized gambling will have a foothold in Hawai'i. Do we really think other forms of gambling such as sports betting or online casino gambling won't soon follow?

Given that legalized gambling is available across the country and in many foreign countries, it is unlikely that many visitors will come here specifically to gamble. It will just be an added option for them to spend their disposable money on. That means money spent at an Aloha Stadium casino means no trip to the Polynesian Cultural Center or no meal out at one of our local restaurants.

Gambling scandals are now happening with NCAA and rigged games, involving, at last count, more than 17 different Division I men's teams and a China pro team.

Athletes are now increasingly being harassed online by losing bettors at an alarming rate, including with death threats. The NCAA says that female athletes get three times the abuse that male athletes get. Do we really want our University of Hawai'i athletes harassed for not getting as many kills, or scoring as many points or not getting as many rebounds as the game before? Do we want UH football fans looking down at their phones and betting on whether quarterback Alejado will hand off or throw a pass or whether the kicker will make a field goal or not?

House Bill 1527 protects Hawai'i residents and University of Hawai'i athletes. For the foregoing reasons, I am in **strong support** of H.B. 1527. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RYAN T. NISHIBUN
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE JP-HR

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Hashem and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1527, Relating to Gambling

I am Jerome A. Pacarro, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 1527, Relating to Gambling.

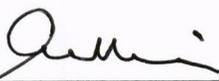
The HPD supports this bill, which seeks to prohibit the establishment of casinos or gambling enterprises in the Aloha Stadium Development District.

The HPD stands with our partnering law enforcement agencies, which have expressed concerns that the legalization of gambling can lead to increased crime, including organized crime and money laundering. National research indicates that areas with legalized gambling often experience a rise in crime rates, with studies showing significant increases in criminal activity. Furthermore, gambling can contribute to social issues such as poverty and addiction. By opposing the legalization of gambling in this specific area, we aim to protect our community from these potential negative impacts and ensure a safer, healthier environment for all residents.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1527, Relating to Gambling. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

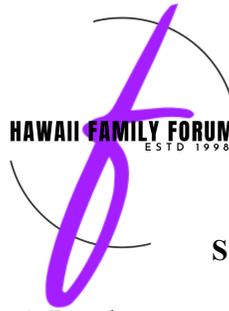
Sincerely,



Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police



Jerome A. Pacarro, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division



Submitted Online: Tuesday, February 3, 2025

TO: House Committee on Water & Land
Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morkikawa, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Strong Support for HB 1527 – Prohibiting Gambling Enterprises in and Around the Aloha Stadium Development District and Protecting University of Hawai‘i Athletics

Hawai‘i Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. As such, we respectfully support this measure because it protects public lands, families, and student-athletes by preventing casino gambling from gaining a foothold in the Aloha Stadium development district.

Hawai‘i has long stood apart as one of the few states that has chosen to protect its people and communities from the social and economic harms of casino-style gambling. This long-standing policy has helped preserve the character of our neighborhoods, reduce predatory industries that target vulnerable families, and maintain a culture centered on people rather than profits. HB 1527 wisely reinforces that policy by ensuring that gambling enterprises are not permitted within or adjacent to the Aloha Stadium Development District and by protecting University of Hawai‘i athletics from becoming entangled with gambling-affiliated venues.

The Aloha Stadium area is envisioned as a gathering place for families — a space for athletics, recreation, concerts, and community events that bring people together. These are spaces meant to strengthen community life, not introduce the risks and pressures associated with casino gambling. Allowing gambling facilities in or around this district would fundamentally change the purpose and tone of the project and could invite speculative development that prioritizes profits over the well-being of residents. By setting a clear boundary now, the Legislature provides certainty to taxpayers and ensures that this public investment remains aligned with community benefit.

We are especially grateful for the bill’s protections for University of Hawai‘i student-athletes. College sports should reflect integrity, discipline, and healthy competition. Across the country, however, the rapid expansion of sports betting has created new pressures on young athletes, including harassment, manipulation, and the risk of compromised games. Student-athletes should not be required to compete in venues that are physically connected to or operated by gambling enterprises. Drawing a firm line between athletics and gambling protects both the integrity of the game and the well-being of these young men and women.



Research consistently shows that when gambling expands, communities experience increased addiction and debt, greater financial strain on families, higher rates of bankruptcy and crime, disproportionate impacts on vulnerable residents, and long-term social costs that ultimately outweigh the promised economic benefits. While gambling is often promoted as a quick source of revenue, the hidden consequences are borne by families, churches, schools, and local nonprofits that must respond to the fallout.

At its heart, this issue is about the kind of future we want for Hawai‘i. Our islands are built on relationships, responsibility, and mālama for one another. Public lands — especially those developed with taxpayer support — should reflect those values and serve as places where families feel safe gathering and where keiki can grow up free from industries that profit from loss and addiction.

HB 1527 offers a prudent and proactive safeguard. It preserves the integrity of a major public development, protects students and families, and maintains Hawai‘i’s consistent policy against commercial gambling expansion. For these reasons, Hawaii Family Forum respectfully urges the Committee to PASS HB 1527.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued service to the people of Hawai‘i.



February 3, 2026

Honorable, Mark J. Hashem, House Committee on Water and Land, Chair
Honorable, Dee Morikawa, House Committee on Water and Land, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water and Land

RE: HB 1527- New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District; University of Hawai'i Athletic Programs; Gambling; Prohibition

Chair Hashem,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo, and I am a Trustee and District Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3, representing heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other skilled tradespeople in Hawai'i's construction industry. I submit our opposition regarding HB 1527.

Gambling is already broadly prohibited under Hawai'i law, and there is no indication that this policy will change in the future. H.B. 1527 does not strengthen enforcement or address an existing legal gap. Instead, it restates current law while adding district-specific restrictions that may create confusion and uncertainty. If gambling remains illegal statewide, singling out one project area for additional prohibitions is redundant.

On a personal note, as a former University of Hawai'i football player under Coach Dick Tomey in the 1980s, I can attest that there is nothing comparable to competing in a true professional stadium that is distinct from a team's daily practice facilities. While student-athletes may experience this atmosphere during road games, they deserve that same experience at home. As a Division I program, the University of Hawai'i requires a modern Aloha Stadium that reflects the caliber of its athletes and competition. Our players deserve that opportunity, and just as importantly, the people of Hawai'i and UH fans deserve a first-class home venue.

The focus of the Legislature should be on enabling the successful development of a new Aloha Stadium that serves athletes and fans, and the community—not on adding redundant statutory limitations.

Sincerely,

Ana Tuiasosopo
District Representative, Trustee



**Testimony of Les Bernal, National Director of Stop Predatory Gambling,
in Support of HB1527: A Bill Preventing Casino Gambling at Aloha Stadium**

Hawaii House Water and Land Committee
February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Hashem and Committee Members:

I am testifying on behalf of our Hawaii members of Stop Predatory Gambling, a national nonprofit organization with members in all 50 states whose mission is to reveal the truth behind commercialized gambling to advocate for those who have suffered harm, to prevent more victims, and to champion policy reforms that stop *predatory* gambling.

We are writing in strong support of to HB1527 that would prevent casino gambling at Aloha Stadium and urge you to vote YES.

There is no citizens grassroots movement for casino gambling (or any other form of commercialized gambling) in Hawaii or in any other state. The lobbying effort for casinos in Hawaii is driven by the greed of powerful, out-of-state financial interests who stand to reap hundreds of millions of dollars in profits at the expense of your constituents.

In Hawaii and across the country, public officials from both parties have put the serious problem of affordability near the top of the political agenda. Yet at the same time, some politicians and gambling industry lobbyists are pushing hard to bring in casinos and other forms of commercialized gambling into Hawaii, a policy proposal that would ***dramatically worsen*** the problem of affordability in the state.

There is a mountain of facts from other states demonstrating that allowing casino gambling at Aloha Stadium or any other venue in Hawaii will unquestionably inflict severe harm upon the financial well-being of tens of thousands of families across the state. No one needs to speculate about what the toll of predatory gambling will be in Hawaii. Simply look

at the massive financial losses that Americans on the mainland are already suffering to predatory gambling:

- **Americans on the mainland are on a downward spiral *to lose almost \$1 trillion of their personal wealth* to regional casinos, commercialized sports gambling, state lotteries, and video gambling machine venues *combined over the next five years.*¹**
- **Americans on the mainland *lost more than \$150 billion in personal wealth* to predatory gambling in 2025.²**
- **Americans on the mainland *are losing almost \$300,000 of personal wealth every minute* to predatory gambling.**

The people of Hawaii have largely been spared these massive, life-changing financial losses because of the foresight and wisdom of prior Hawaii legislatures and governors.

But I urge this committee to support HB1527 also because of the life-changing harm the gambling industry unleashes upon the mental and social well-being of millions of American families.

Every state legislator who is serious about their job has a duty to ask at least two fundamental questions about the commercialized gambling industry. The first is what percent of commercialized gambling profits is based upon citizens who have become addicted gamblers? What you will learn is the gambling industry business model depends upon the addicted citizen. In the brick-and-mortar casino business, national media has reported there are “at least nine independent studies demonstrating that addicted gamblers generate up to 60% of total gambling revenues.”³

¹ H2 Gambling Capital, 2026. h2gc.com

² H2 Gambling Capital, 2025. h2gc.com

³ “How Casinos Enable Gambling Addicts,” *The Atlantic*, By John Rosengren, December 2016
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/12/losing-it-all/505814/>

The second question every serious legislator needs to ask is what percent of gambling profits comes from people who follow “responsible gambling codes of conduct?” The reality is the percentage of gambling profits that comes from people who follow “responsible gambling codes of conduct” (i.e., the casual gambler) *is virtually irrelevant to their profits*. NYU Professor Natasha Schull reported in her nationally acclaimed book *Addiction By Design* that people who follow responsible gambling guidelines *made up 75% of the players but contribute a mere 4% of gambling profits*. “If responsible gambling were successful then the industry would probably shut down for lack of income,” the author of the study said.⁴

Conclusion

Predatory gambling, including regional casinos like the kind targeted for Aloha Stadium, is an antiquated, outdated public policy and a relic of past failures of leadership. It has inflicted life-changing financial losses on tens of millions of Americans.⁵ Its profits are based upon cultivating an addiction that causes a degree of human misery like very few things can including significant increases in rates of personal bankruptcy, divorce, domestic violence, and suicides.⁶ And lastly, it has proven to be the ultimate budget gimmick as a state government revenue source, leading to higher taxes for less services over the long term.⁷ *You pay even if you don't play.*

Over the last forty years, the citizens of Hawaii have experienced better economic mobility out of poverty, more stable families, less addiction, less domestic violence, stronger communities, less state budget problems, and lower taxes because the state officials said No to predatory gambling.

⁴ Natasha Dow Schull, PhD, *Addiction By Design, Machine Gambling in Las Vegas*, Pg. 267 (2012), available at <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9156.html>

⁵ Natasha Dow Schull, PhD, *Addiction By Design, Machine Gambling in Las Vegas*, Pg. 267 (2012), available at <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9156.html>

⁶ Institute for American Values, Why Casinos Matter Institute for American Values, Council on Casinos, Why Casinos Matter, Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions from the Health and Social Sciences, September 2013, at 29, <https://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013-Why-Casinos-Matter-FINAL.pdf>

⁷ “State Revenues from Gambling: Short-Term Relief, Long-Term Disappointment,” Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, SUNY-Albany, April 2016, http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2016-04-12-Blinken_Report_Three.pdf

Thank you for your serious consideration of the facts presented in our testimony. If you need further information about this issue, I invite you and your staff to please contact me by email mail@stoppredatorygambling.org or phone (202) 567-6996.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,



Les Bernal, National Director
Stop Predatory Gambling

About Stop Predatory Gambling

Stop Predatory Gambling believes people are worth more than money. We are a national nonprofit organization with members of all political stripes in all 50 states whose mission is to reveal the truth behind commercialized gambling to advocate for those who have suffered harm, to prevent more victims, and to champion policy reforms that stop *predatory* gambling. We do not accept financial contributions from commercialized gambling interests.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem,
Chair, House Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa,
Vice Chair, House Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

RE: HB1527 – Relating to Gambling

DATE: February 4, 2026

POSITION: IHS **strongly supports** passing HB1527

Through our work providing services to homeless households, IHS, The Institute for Human Services, is deeply familiar with how challenges from tenuous economic circumstances can be exacerbated through gambling. Families' whole income can vanish overnight, a problem only made worse by the addictive nature of gambling, which can make it near impossible to financially recover.

Passing this bill is an opportunity to stop perpetuating the problems of gambling. Moreover, it endears the belief that community is built through sustainable programs that care for people, not by creating projects funded by the losses of people in need of help. Development of a casino on the public land around Aloha Stadium, which has a dedicated rail site, would create unfettered access to gambling, which would only worsen preexisting conditions.

Our experience has shown that people should be supported in shaking their vices, not given easier access to them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:08:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee

I OPPOSE HB 1527 . It has been shown to be detrimental in numerous communities and places. It is the people of this place, I believe, who will be hurt the most by having no stake in it especially if they have no access to resources that could mitigate the negative effects of gaming

mahalo

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

Let's keep the ALOHA in Aloha Stadium, and keep predatory gambling out!

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

Please support and move forward HB1527, which prohibits any casino or gambling enterprise from operating at or near the Aloha Stadium Entertainment District and prevents University of Hawai'i teams from competing in gambling-operated or gambling-integrated venues.

The developer has stated that a casino is needed for the project to "pencil out." If we cannot afford to build a stadium without gambling, then it should not be built. Public projects should not depend on gambling losses to be financially viable. A gambling-linked stadium would ultimately be paid for by people losing money, families harmed by addiction, and communities bearing the social and economic costs.

These concerns are heightened by the fact that the stadium site will have a dedicated rail stop, making it uniquely accessible. Locating a casino on public land with direct rail access would significantly increase exposure to gambling-related harm, especially for local families and vulnerable residents. Imagine...neighbor island residents hopping on a flight and shuttled straight from the airport to the casino.

HB1527 also takes an important step to protect student-athletes. [The NCAA has found that 1 in 3 high-profile student-athletes are harassed or threatened by angry bettors, putting their physical and mental safety at risk.](#) Hawai'i has a responsibility to protect its athletes and to uphold the integrity of sports.

HB1527 ensures the stadium district remains a place for athletics, community, and public benefit. Let's keep the ALOHA in the Aloha Stadium, and keep predatory gambling out.

Mahalo,
Christine Otto Zaa

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:52:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and ask you to also.

The stadium area is meant to be a safe, family-friendly place for sports, recreation, and community events — not casino gambling.

University of Hawai‘i athletes should not compete in venues connected to gambling enterprises, which can introduce pressure, manipulation, and risks to the integrity of sports.

Communities that expand gambling often experience increased addiction, family financial stress, and long-term social costs that outweigh promised economic benefits. I know this first hand.

Please hear the local people !

mahalo!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:55:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Hawai‘i Should Not Build Public Projects on Gambling Harm!

HB1527 draws a necessary and responsible line for Hawai‘i.

The developer has openly stated that a casino is required for the proposed stadium project to “pencil out.” That admission alone should give us pause. If we cannot afford to build a public stadium without relying on gambling losses, then we should not build it at all. Public infrastructure should stand on sound economics, not on extracting money from people who lose at gambling.

A stadium tied to casino revenue would ultimately be paid for by real human costs: families harmed by addiction, individuals pushed into financial distress, and communities forced to absorb increased social and economic burdens. Hawai‘i should not balance its books on the backs of those losses.

These risks are magnified by the proposed location. A stadium site with a dedicated rail stop creates a direct pipeline to a casino on public land—dramatically increasing access, exposure, and harm. It is not hard to imagine neighbor-island residents flying in and being shuttled directly from the airport to the casino. That level of convenience is not accidental; it is a business model that prioritizes gambling volume over community well-being.

HB1527 also takes an important stand to protect student-athletes. The NCAA reports that **1 in 3 high-profile student-athletes are harassed or threatened by angry bettors**, placing their mental and physical safety at risk. Allowing gambling to become intertwined with local sports environments increases pressure, corruption risk, and abuse directed at young athletes. Hawai‘i has a responsibility to protect its students and uphold the integrity of sports.

HB1527 affirms a simple principle:

Public projects should serve the public good—without creating new harm to fund them.

For the health of our communities, the safety of our students, and the integrity of our values, Hawai‘i should support HB1527.

Thank you,

Maki Morinoue
96725



February 3, 2026

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on - Economic Development / Higher Education
RE: HB 1527 – Relating to Gambling; Aloha Stadium; University of Hawaii

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1527, which prohibits the establishment of any casino or gambling facility within the Aloha Stadium Development District and ensures the University of Hawaii's athletic programs remain untethered from gambling-operated venues.

I believe that preserving the vision of the New Aloha Stadium and the redevelopment of Aloha Stadium is intended to be a vibrant, family-friendly community hub. Introducing casino gambling into this district would fundamentally change its character. This bill ensures that state lands are used for public benefit, focusing on sports, entertainment, and local culture rather than the social risks associated with localized gambling.

It is vital that we protect the Integrity of Amateur Athletics by allowing the University of Hawaii teams to compete in venues integrated with gambling enterprises poses significant risk to the integrity of collegiate sports. HB 1527 wisely draws a line that protects our student athletes from environments where the pressure of betting interests could cloud the spirit of the game. We must uphold Hawaii's long-standing Public Policy, which Hawaii is one of only two states in the nation with a complete ban on legalized gambling. This policy has shielded our community from the increased crime rates, financial instability, and addiction issues often linked to casinos. HB 1527 reinforces this commitment and prevents "mission creep" that might otherwise see gambling creep into our public spaces under the guise of "revenue generation."

In closing most importantly, the bill clarifies that standard naming-rights or advertising agreements do not constitute prohibited sponsorships. This allows the Stadium Authority and UH to continue seeking legitimate corporate partnerships while still maintaining a firm "no-gambling" stance on the physical premises.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 1527 to keep the Aloha Stadium site a safe, inclusive, and community-focused venue for all of Hawaii's residents.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya
Phone: 808723-9161 pattyteruya@gmail.com

NEW

BOONDOGGLE BOONDOGGLE

BOONDOGGLE BOONDOGGLE

**NO
PARKING**

Boondoggle written all over it.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:04:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1527, which prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site and keeps University of Hawai'i teams out of gambling-operated venues.

Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. And if we can't afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built.

With a dedicated rail stop at the site, a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gambling on public land, increasing exposure and harm.

With growing evidence that 1 in 3 student-athletes face harassment from angry bettors, this bill protects our athletes, families and Hawai'i values.

Testimony/Statement of Professor John W. Kindt, Em., Univ. Illinois
In Support of HB1527, Legislature of Hawaii
Submitted February 3, 2026

Since honeymooning in Hawaii, academic colleagues and I have returned several times over the last 4 decades to testify and give legislative briefings regarding the socioeconomic impacts of expanded gambling in Hawaii. For over 35 years, academic colleagues and I have published research on the socioeconomic costs and benefits of gambling facilities, and we have testified before most state legislatures and U.S. congressional committees (under oath). The numbers promulgated by gambling proponents are usually notoriously inaccurate and lack any credible citations.

For example, the Chicago casino promised tax revenues to the city of \$200 million per year, but the Chicago Tribune recently reported that the 2025 revenues were only \$15.8 million or 8% of what was promised. Promised adjunct entertainment facilities are also frequently not built once the gambling facility is approved. Gambling proposals fail every reputable cost/benefit analysis. Without creating new problem gamblers, gambling facilities go bankrupt.

Econ., Bus. & Legal Studies at Emory, Mercer, U.Ga. & U.S. Universities Feb. 2026 Conclude:

MORE LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN HAWAII WOULD TRIPLE GAMBLINGS' ABC
S ADDICTIONS, BANKRUPTCIES, CRIME, SEX-TRAFFICKING & SUICIDES

1. ADDICTIONS: Gambling addiction is now classified like opioid and drug addictions by the Am. Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. In the general population, gambling addiction rates are Caucasians (1.2%-2%); Hispanics (2%-3%); African Americans (2%-4%); and Native Americans (2%-6%). Jesse Jackson in his Chicago speech on Martin Luther King Day called gambling “the new chains of slavery.” Youths and **kids exposed to gambling are already showing double these gambling addiction percentage rates**. Hawaiian casinos and online sports gambling would increase these addiction rates again by at least another 170%. Each new addicted gambler costs the taxpayers \$28,000 to \$104,000 per year, and like drug addicts gambling addicts negatively impact the lives of 7 to 17 other people. Around new gambling facilities the gambling addiction rate doubles. Hawaii could easily have 13,000 to 23,000 **new addicted gamblers, costing Hawaiian taxpayers \$364 million to \$2.39 billion**. These huge increases have been well-documented in Illinois, Pennsylvania, et al.
2. BANKRUPTCIES & LOST JOBS: As gamblers lose their money, new gambling facilities increase personal, professional, and business **bankruptcies up 18% to 42%**. The “Tourism Economy” of Hawaii would be severely impacted. Gambling addicted employees have embezzled from numerous companies and banks throwing non-gambling employees out of work. Every casino averages about 700-1,000 video gambling machines (VGMs). Each gambling machine cannibalizes approximately \$45,000 per year out of the

consumer economy which results in \$150,000 in “lost consumer spending” or one lost job in the consumer economy per year per video gambling machine. Current Hawaiian gambling proposals would initially create several hundred construction jobs and then hundreds of continuing maintenance and management jobs, but the consumer economy would **net 4,500 to 13,900 lost jobs every year.**

3. **CRIME:** Casinos and gambling facilities make 90% of their profits from video gambling machines. The medical community calls these VGMs the “crack cocaine” for hooking new addicted gamblers. Addicted gamblers and another 6% to 8% “problem gamblers” lose substantial monies, and then resort to crime to get money to continue gambling. Problem gamblers have become interstate serial killers to get gambling money. Within 50 miles of gambling facilities, **crime increases 9% every year.** Also, problem gamblers are 4.3% to 7.6% more likely to commit crimes. After one Illinois casino opened, a mother lost her life savings and then killed her child to collect the child’s life insurance. The mother again lost her money and killed her other child for \$200,000 insurance.
4. **CHILDREN TARGETED BY ONLINE GAMES & SPORTS GAMBLING:** Online gambling promoters brag that Internet gambling (including sports gambling) is the “Killer APP” of the Internet. Despite public protests, in Australia, the online gambling establishment has children starting to gamble at age 11. In the U.K. there are 55,000 problem gamblers who are under 16 years old, and 28 million U.K. kids were illegally targeted by gambling companies resulting in a 15% increase in problem gambling in kids. In the U.S., the Campaign for Gambling-Free Kids reports that “more than half of 16-year-olds have gambling apps on their smartphones,” while 36% between the ages of 11 and 17 are seriously gambling. U.S. Senator Tom Cotton has introduced legislation to protect U.S. kids from online predatory gambling.
5. **SEX TRAFFICKING & PROSTITUTION OF ADULTS AND KIDS:** When women and kids lose money as new addicted gamblers or problem gamblers, they become newly vulnerable to sex trafficking and prostitution. For example, Atlantic City has large sex trafficking problems—sparking public demonstrations against the government’s “prostitution environment.” Statistically, Hawaii’s current prostitution problems could be expected to increase by 35% to 95%.
6. **SOCIO-ECONOMIC COSTS TO TAXPAYERS AND GOVERNMENTS:** It is well-established that **for every \$1 in new revenue, the costs to taxpayers, DHS agencies, and governments is at least \$3 to \$7--**because gambling creates no new product and is profitable only via constant increases in human misery. Problem gamblers and addicted gamblers contribute 67% to 90% of the dollars that commercialized gambling makes. Hawaii’s DHS will require \$510 million just to begin addressing the costs of gambling.
7. The movies “MONEY MACHINE” (2020) and MARTIN SCORSESE’S “CASINO” expose the cover-ups promulgated by the gambling establishment.

Abbr. Sources: Vandall & Lanier, Emory Law Sch., Ill. Law Rev. (2021); Grinols & Mustard, U.Ga. Terry Bus. Sch., Ill. Law Rev. (2021); Grinols, Gambling in America (Cambridge Univ.

Press 2004 & 2009); Grinols & Mustard, U.Ga. Terry Bus. Sch., Rev. Econ. & Statistics (Harvard & M.I.T. 2006); Amar, Dean of Ill. Law Sch., Ill. Law Rev. (2021); Kindt, Mercer Law Rev. (2004) & Emory Bankr. Law Journal (2002); Gottlieb, Daynard & Friedman, N.E. Univ. Law Sch., Ill. Law Rev. (2021); Zorland, Ga. State Univ. (2009); U.S. Congress, Nat'l Gambling Impact Study Commission (1999); Multiple University & Gov't Reports, reprinted in Vols. 1-6, United States International Gambling Report (repub. 2021). Ga. Dep't Behav. Health & Dev. Disabilities (Zorland Study).

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:55:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to let you know I am extremely against any gambling, lottery, etc in Hawaii.

Coming from a state (Missouri) where gambling was approved in the early 90s, I can tell you how we fell for ALL THE EMPTY PROMISES.

I can also share my families gambling addictions experiences.

Please under no circumstances let gambling ruin this paradise.

Thank you for allowing testimony.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:17:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Singer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1527, which prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site and keeps University of Hawai'i teams out of gambling-operated venues. Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. And if we can't afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built. With a dedicated rail stop at the site, a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gambling on public land, increasing exposure and harm. With growing evidence that 1 in 3 student-athletes face harassment from angry bettors, this bill protects our athletes, families and Hawai'i values.

Mahalo,

Steven Singer, Hawaii Kai

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:58:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Morimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairman and committee members,

I urge you all to support HB1527 and protect the Aloha Stadium from casino gambling. Any form of gambling will not benefit our State or people. This will hurt individuals, families, and future keikis.

Thank you,

Doreen Morimoto

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:07:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donalee Pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill 1527: Relating to Gambling

All areas of our island should be safe, family-friendly, and pleasant to for sports, recreation, community events that uphold family values and principles. Casino gambling of any kind should be prohibited near or around the Stadium area. We need to protect our families, family life-style and family values. UH atheletes, high school & any other organizaiton should not be subject to this kind of envirnoment when competing at the stadium. This would cause undue pressure, manipulation, risks and cause danger to our student athletes. Keeping the stadium free from gambling and casinos will increase drug activity, family financial issues, stress, long term social costs that are not needed in our state. Keep public lands focusoned on community and family use. Protect our future and the future of sports in the stadium and it's nearby areas. Thank you.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:04:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandy Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support **HB1527**.

Let's Protects Families & Community spaces, Safeguards Student-Athletes, and Prevent Social & Financial Harm.

Hawaii needs this. Let's preserves the family-friendly character of the Aloha Stadium area, keep public lands focused on community use, protect youth and student-athletes, prevent predatory gambling expansion, and maintain Hawai'i's long-standing policy against casino gambling.

Thank you,

Amanda Chang of Kapolei

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:46:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1527. This Legislation prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site and keeps University of Hawai'i teams out of gambling-operated venues. Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. Clearly if we cannot afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built. And with a direct rail stop at the site, a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gambling on public land, increasing gambling exposure and harm to the community. With growing evidence that 1 in 3 student athletes face harassment from angry bettors, this bill protects our athletes, families and Hawai'i values.

Marcus R. Oshiro
Wahiawa, Hawai'i

February 3, 2026

Written Testimony in **strong support** of HB1527 Relating to Gambling

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1527, which takes two prudent and necessary steps to protect Hawai'i's communities, public assets, and young people from the harms associated with gambling enterprises. I tip my hat to Representatives Garrett and Iligan for the intestinal fortitude for allowing this public discussion on such weighty and consequential matters of public policy: Gambling in Hawaii and The University of Hawaii Student Athletics

First, this measure appropriately prohibits gambling at or near the Aloha Stadium site. The stadium district is a public redevelopment project intended to serve families, residents, and the broader community. Allowing gambling activities in or around this area would fundamentally alter its purpose and expose surrounding neighborhoods to increased risks of addiction, financial harm, and social disruption. Hawai'i has long chosen to reject gambling as an economic development strategy, recognizing that short-term revenue promises often to come at the expense of long-term community well-being. HB1527 reinforces that commitment by ensuring that the Aloha Stadium site remains a place for sports, culture, and community gathering—not a foothold for predatory industries.

I understand that lead developers of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) have espoused the necessity for partnership of a foreign or Mainland based gambling business or businesses to make the project, “pencil out”, and that without such “public/private” partnering, the project is a non-starter. If that is the case, then allow the legislature to do its due diligence and compel the winning developers to put forth a compelling case for casino financing that requires endorsement of commercial gambling for this one-time sports project. The build out of housing and other amenities on the 100 acres of public lands will take 15-20 years, but legalization of gambling and its effects arise immediately.

As such, I respectfully suggest that the Legislature consider that State of Hawaii has the means to capitalize more than \$350 million in general obligation bonds and private capital can leverage revenue bond financing for a public worthy construction project, like a stadium for amateur, college, professional sports, and music and world class events. I would surmise that the original 50,000 seat Aloha Stadium completed in 1975 was financed through similar State of Hawaii resources without reliance on gambling monies.

Second, this bill provides critical protections for students, coaches, and players within the University of Hawai'i system by shielding them from the influence of gambling enterprises. College athletes are particularly vulnerable to pressure, coercion, and exploitation by betting interests. Across the country, the expansion of sports betting has led to increased harassment of student-athletes, threats tied to game outcomes and attempts to influence performance. Our

public university should be a place of education, integrity, and fair competition, not a target for gambling operators seeking access to young people and athletic programs. Already, DraftKings, FanDuel, and others are recruiting colleges and universities for exclusive rights to market gambling services to its students. I hope the UH leadership and Athletics have enough smarts and conviction to protect their students and student athletes.

Indeed, can you imagine the second-guessing of a UH player missing a block, missing a pitch, crossing a line, dropping a ball, or flubbing a kick, that affects the point-spread, much less the outcome of the game? Or, equally damaging to a fan's support and enjoyment of UH Athletics, is questioning the integrity of the games and our young athletes' performances. Imagine the pressure upon our young athletes with forthcoming "Name, Image, and Likeness" (NIL) contracts and subjective compensation packages; less compensated athletes may be tempted to reveal locker room secrets. UH games of skill and athletic competition could easily become games of insider information and the fixing of plays to decide winners and losers, not on the field or court, but among the betting fans in the stands and on iPhone Apps.

HB1527 draws a clear and responsible line. It protects public spaces, safeguards student-athletes, and upholds Hawai'i's values of community health and integrity. I respectfully urge your support for this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Name: Stephen Yuen
Ph: 808 341-6597
Email: stevey@g70.design

Meeting date: 5 feb 2026 thursday

Committee: water and land WAL

Agenda Item: HB1527 measure title: relating to gambling

Report title: New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District; University of Hawai'i Athletic Programs; Gambling; Prohibition

My position on the matter: SUPPORT

This testimony is written in SUPPORT OF HB1527

Measure description: Prohibits any casino, gambling enterprise, or gambling facility from being located on state lands within or adjacent to the Aloha Stadium Development District project area or on any lands under the jurisdiction of the Stadium Authority. Prohibits athletic programs of the University of Hawai'i from competing in venues that are operated by or physically integrated with a gambling enterprise while clarifying that standard naming-rights or advertising agreements do not constitute prohibited sponsorships.

I am writing as a Kaimuki resident, architect and urban designer, personally and not on behalf of my business or any organization.

I strongly support HB1527, which prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site and keeps University of Hawai'i teams out of gambling-operated venues. Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. And if we can't afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built. With a dedicated rail stop at the site, a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gamble on public land, increasing exposure and harm. With growing evidence that 1 in 3 student-athletes face harassment from angry bettors, this bill protects our athletes, families and Hawai'i values.

February 3, 2026

TO: Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water and Land
On Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9:00 am Conf room 411

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW

RE: HB 1527 Relating to Gambling

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee on Water and Land, I am a resident of District 32 (Foster Village) and retired social worker and testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1527 Relating to Gambling**.

The purpose of this bill is to **PROHIBIT** any casino, gambling enterprise or gambling facility from being located on state lands within or adjacent to the Aloha Stadium Development District project area or on any lands under the jurisdiction of the Stadium Authority. It also **PROHIBITS** athletic programs of the UH from competing in venues that are operated by or physically integrated with a gambling enterprise while clarifying that standard naming-rights or advertising agreements do not constitute prohibited sponsorships.

Articles by Civil Beat and the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (*Gambling with Paradise: Why Casinos and Lotteries are Bad Bets for Hawai'i*, March 2012 and February 2013) show that gambling proponents promise financial gains but ignore the impact that it has on low-income families who are disproportionately harmed by gambling.

Specifically, Civil Beat and Hawai'i Appleseed report that :

- Living near a casino significantly increases the risk of problem or pathological gambling, particularly for those in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Residing within 10 miles of a casino results in 90% increase in the odds of being a problem gambler
- Residents living in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods have 12 times the rate of problem gambling as residents in privileged areas
- Revenue-creating taxes on gambling, similar to excise taxes on cigarettes or alcohol, form a heavily regressive tax on low-income families
- Poor people are more likely to spend a higher percentage of their income on gambling, resulting in a larger percentage of their income going to gambling taxes
- Gambling creates a greater need for social services, public benefits and police protection
- Casinos create gambling losses and devastate family finances which in turn increase bankruptcy rates in local communities

- The introduction of gambling into new areas has been associated with significant increases in serious crimes
- In 1999, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission found that gambling-related harms are found in job loss substance abuse, crime, divorce, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and homelessness

HB 1527 will PROHIBIT this from happening to our families and communities.

Please **SUPPORT HB 1527**.

Thank you for the oppportunity to testify.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:56:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C.Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1527, which prohibits casinos and gambling at the Aloha Stadium site and keeps University of Hawai'i teams out of gambling-operated venues. Public projects meant for community use should not be built on gambling losses. And if we can't afford a stadium without a casino, then it should not be built. With a dedicated rail stop at the site, a casino would turn public transit into a direct pipeline to gambling on public land, increasing exposure and harm. With growing evidence that 1 in 3 student-athletes face harassment from angry bettors, this bill protects our athletes, families and Hawai'i values.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:49:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am testifying today in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1527.

The last several years have exerted significant, negative pressure on our economic conditions. Five years later, tourism, a key pillar of our economy has not fully recovered. We are **LOSING** the international competition to attract tourists to other just as beautiful and more exciting destinations. This has perilous consequences for our future. We must regain our international edge for attracting tourists as a beautiful and fun destination.

I **STRONGLY URGE** this committee to **REJECT** this bill!

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:51:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill. Please vote yes.

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:58:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Armina Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose all gambling operations in Hawaii. For years, many have tried to make it legal in Hawaii. Those groups believe that gambling operations would assist our economy in generating much needed income and resources.

To make it legal in this state, would invite various illegal activities linked to gambling, like sex trafficking and illegal drugs. Furthermore, homelessness and destruction of families would be inevitable.

Many in Hawaii will engage in legal gambling, in hopes of improving their financial situation. It will do the exact opposite, and destroy lives.

Upon hearing that suggestions have been made to use the Aloha Stadium as a venue for legal gambling operations, is a terrible idea. People live and thrive in Pearl City/Aiea, and many schools are nearby. Don't bring bad behavior to that neighborhood or any place in Hawaii.

I have dealt with people who have murdered for money. Some justify hurting those who can't pay their loans. For 34 years, I have seen how these surviving family members suffer and are destroyed.

Thank you for reading my written testimony.

Sincerely,

Armina Ching

HB-1527

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:58:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwyn Griffiths	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1527. I do not think gambling has any place in Hawai'i and I support bills to prohibit gambling entities, casinos, etc. These establishments do not empower people but disenfranchise them.