clee1 - Lina

From: Mindi Allison [mindi@lejhawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:47 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: HB2379 testimony
Attachments: HB2379 Testimony.pdf; Gambling attachment.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

I tried to submit this online but only one of the attachments loaded. I have attached both pieces we wish to submit (you have already received the first but not the second). We wish to include the second attachment with our testimony.

Mahalo,
Mindi Allison

--
Mindi Allison
Development Coordinator
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
(formerly known as Lawyers for Equal Justice)
119 Merchant St., 6th floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-587-7605

HAWAI'I APPLESEED CENTER

LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Hawai`i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
119 Merchant Street, Suite 605 • Honolulu, Hawai`i, 96813 • (808) 587-7605

HAWAI'I APPLESEED CENTER
LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LATE TESTIMO

Board of Directors
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David J. Reber, Esq.
Executive Director
Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Legalized Gambling's Effects on Low-Income Individuals

♦ Introduction

While many states have come to rely on legalized gambling and lotteries to bolster their budgets, the effects on low-income and disadvantaged individuals have failed to receive adequate consideration. When examined, empirical evidence from around the country demonstrates the disproportionate negative impacts that legalized gambling and lotteries have on low-income and disadvantaged individuals.

First, legalized gambling and lotteries are unlikely to solve Hawaii's economic issues, and based on other states' models, even if the state did recognize economic gains, gambling revenue is unlikely to fund services for the poor. Second, not only do low income people fail to receive many benefits from gambling revenues, but they bear the brunt of gambling's economic harms. Lotteries are a major concern because they are readily accessible throughout the state and low income people have consistently been shown to spend a larger share of their money on lottery tickets. The presence of casinos has a tendency to increase problem or pathological gambling, particularly for residents of disadvantaged, low-income neighborhoods; they also have been shown to increase crime in the area.

It is important to note that Hawaii's unique tourism economy and population may result in very different outcomes than those on the mainland. However, the negative effects on low-income people and other disadvantaged populations do not support the introduction of legalized gambling or a lottery.

♦ The expansion of gambling is not be a sustainable solution to budget shortfalls.

The long-term growth of gambling revenues is uncertain.

While states' revenue from gambling grew rapidly from 1998-2008, growth has slowed, with a drop in 2008-9 revenues, followed by a small increase in 2010.[1] Gambling revenue is a significant but small part of state budgets, constituting between 2.1%-2.5% of state own-source revenues, which include taxes and charges; [2] lotteries remain the primary source of gambling revenue among the states.[3]

States frequently expand gambling to cover budget shortfalls or fund new programs, implicitly assuming that gambling revenues are similar to other sources of revenue such as taxes. Much of the

[1] Back in the Black: States' Gambling Revenues Rose in 2010. Lucy Dadayan and Robert B. Ward. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. June 23, 2011 at 1. Available at http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2011-06-23-Back_in_the_Black.pdf.
[2] *Id.* at 4.
[3] *Id.* at 7.

LATE TESTIMONY

growth in gambling revenue from 1998-2010 is a result of governments expanding gambling activity.[4] However, gambling revenues have grown at a significantly slower pace than other forms of state revenue.[5] At the same time, the rate of spending increases on government programs such as education will generally outpace any increases in gambling revenues.[6] It is ultimately an unreliable source of revenue that represents only a quick fix for the state.

The substitution effect may result in ancillary harms to Hawaii's other businesses.

Given the size of Hawaii's tourism industry, the substitution, or "cannibalization" effect of legalized gambling is likely to be particularly problematic. The potential economic effects of a casino depend on whether or not the casino is likely to attract tourists to the area.[7] Effects will vary greatly by region and there are many concerns on the mainland that are unlikely to apply to Hawaii. Since Hawaii already has a highly established tourist industry with many attractions, models or case studies from other states are unlikely to transfer completely. Regardless, it seems likely that legalized gambling will likely result in tourists spending money on gambling rather than other forms of entertainment. In Hartford, Connecticut, the number of pop and rock music shows at the performing arts center took a serious dive after casinos opened fifty miles away and is now operating at a one million dollar deficit.[8] Casinos may also have an effect on restaurants and bars, since they typically include such amenities on-site.

In a state such as a Hawaii, with a very large number of tourists, this seems far less likely to actually attract new visitors. Given the cost of traveling to Hawaii for many mainlanders, it seems unlikely that Hawaii will serve as a direct alternative to a gambling hotspot like Las Vegas. Thus the cannibalization effect appears even more probable here than in other states since gambling will likely not be a lure in itself for tourists, but rather an alternative to spending money on other forms of entertainment.

A similar displacement effect may result in reduced GET revenues and taxes on other items such as alcohol, tobacco, and fuel.[9] While studies have determined different rates of displacement, they have consistently found that sales and "sin tax" revenues fall as gambling or lottery spending rises.

Gambling does not create high-paying jobs.

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[4] *Id.* at 2.
[5] "For The First Time, A Smaller Jackpot: Trends in State Revenue from Gambling. Lucy Dadayan and Robert B. Ward. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, September 21, 2009 at 18. Available at http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2009-09-21-No_More_Jackpot.pdf.
[6] *Id.* at 19.
[7] Memorandum. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Sep. 14, 2006 at 3. Available at http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/neppc/memos/2006/brome091406.pdf.
[8] With casinos, theaters fear competition for big acts. Priyanak Dayal. Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Sep. 15, 2011. Available at http://www.telegram.com/article/20110915/NEWS/109159480.
[9] Gambling in the Golden State 1998 Forward. Charlene Wear Simmons. California Research Bureau, California State Library, May 2006 at 92-3.Available at http://ag.ca.gov/gambling/pdfs/GS98.pdf.

LATE TESTIMONY

The national median wage in the gambling industry is $11.25,[10] while the self-sufficiency income standard for a single adult requires a wage of $11.59, and a single adult with one child needs to earn $18.41 to be considered self-sufficient.[11] So while legalizing gambling may create jobs, they will not even meet the self-sufficiency standard.

♦ Lotteries are highly regressive sources of revenue.

Low-income people spend more on the lottery, effectively redistributing income.

Low-income people may see the lottery as their best way of enriching themselves. The potential payoff, combined with the modest price of an individual lottery ticket, is alluring. Of course, excessive spending on the lottery can sink the poor further into poverty. Not only does the lottery drain income, but it also promotes spending instead of saving, since a household could have instead invested the sum it spent on the lottery.[12]

Lotteries have often been described as a "tax" because the ticket price is higher than what the government needs to run the lottery. People with lower incomes spend more on the lottery, as well as spending a larger share of their income on the lottery. A household making under $12,400 spends five percent of its gross income playing the lottery, while a household earning ten times as much ($124,000) spends just 0.33% of its income on the lottery.[13] In North Carolina, the poorest counties in the state have the highest per capita gambling rates.[14]

Studies around the country have demonstrated that low-income people may up a large percentage of lottery players. A study in South Carolina showed the disparities between disadvantaged and privileged socioeconomic groups:[15]

- People in households earning under $40,000 are 28% of the state's population, but constitute 31.3% of lottery players and 53.4% of frequent players.
- People without a high school diploma are 8.9% of the population, 10.5% of lottery players, and 20.8% of frequent players.
- The 25.1% of South Carolinians whose highest level of education is a high school diploma or a GED are 24.3% of lottery players but 33.3% of frequent players.

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[10] This includes all occupations, including "white collar" positions, within the gambling industry, not just service workers. May 2010 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: Gambling Industries. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available at http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics4_713200.htm.

[11] Economic self-sufficiency is defined as the amount of money that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs without government and/or other subsidies. Self-Sufficiency Income Standard: Estimates for Hawaii 2008. Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. December 2010. Available at http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/main/about/annual/2010-reports/self-sufficiency-2010.pdf.

[12] A Nation in Debt: How we killed thrift, enthroned loan sharks and undermined American prosperity. Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, 9. Available at http://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/Whitehead-A-Nation-in-Debt.pdf.

[13] A Nation in Debt at 9.

[14] Hope and Hard Luck. Sarah Ovaska, NC Policy Watch. Dec. 17, 2010. Available at http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2010/12/17/hope-and-hard-luck/.

[15] S.C. studies show poor, black most likely to play lottery often. John Lyon. Arkansas News Bureau, July 26, 2009. Available at http://arkansasnews.com/2009/07/26/sc-studies-show-poor-blacks-most-likely-to-play-lottery-often/print/.

LATE TESTIMONY

- Black individuals make up 19.7% of the population, but are 23.2% of lottery players and 38.4% of frequent players.

Serious financial issues generally do not stop individuals from purchasing lottery tickets. Given the higher participation rates of low-income individuals, it is unsurprising that a portion of government benefits appears to be spent on the lottery. State lottery ticket sales have been shown to increase during the same week that government transfer payments for benefits like TANF and Social Security are distributed.[16] Surveys from around the country have found that around 20% of homeless individuals have gambling problems or even consider gambling to be a cause of their homelessness.[17]

On a broader scale, lottery revenues have historically increased in bad economies; many state economies experienced record revenues even in 2008.[18] By 2010, despite the economy remaining in poor health, gambling revenues started to rise again.[19]

Lottery revenues generally do not fund social services for the poor.

Interestingly, lotteries generally do not support causes such as substance abuse treatment, services for people with disabilities, reentry programs, or domestic violence organizations—programs that are particularly important to low-income people due to their lack of access to resources. Instead, lotteries often fund causes such as education that are widely supported across income groups that have even resulted in disproportionate benefits for the more privileged households that spend less on the lottery.[20] For example, lottery-funded merit scholarships in Florida disproportionately benefit higher socioeconomic households. Households with lower socioeconomic status tend to pay more in lottery "taxes" yet receive less of the scholarship benefits, effectively redistributing funds from lower-income households to wealthier ones.[21]

Even programs that are funded by lotteries may see expenditures reduced as lawmakers put more money into payoffs in an effort increase revenue.[22] Funds may also be used to cover shortfalls in already-existing programs rather than the new ones they promised to fund.[23] In states that used lottery revenues to fund schools, only 1-5% came of their funding came from the lottery in the mid-2000s.[24]

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[16] Running the Numbers on Lotteries and the Poor: An Empirical Analysis of Transfer Payment Distribution and Subsequent Lottery Sales. Andrew P. Weinbach and Rodney J. Paul. International Atlantic Economic Society, 2008. 333-344 at 334. Available at http://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/Running-the-Numbers-on-Lotteries-and-the-Poor-An-Empirical-Analysis-of-Transfer-Payment-Distribution-and-Subsequent-Lottery-Sales.pdf.

[17] Poverty and Casino Gambling in Buffalo. Sam Magavern and Elaina Mulé. Partnership for the Public Good, Jan. 19, 2011 at 6. http://www.ppgbuffalo.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Poverty-and-Casino-Gambling1.pdf. This policy brief provides a particularly helpful overview of the impact of gambling on low income individuals.

[18] Sweet Dreams in Hard Times Add to Lottery Sales. Katie Zezima, New York Times. Sep. 12, 2008. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/us/13lottery.html?_r=1&scp=2&sq=Emily%20Haisley&st=cse.

[19] Back in the Black: States' Gambling Revenues Rose in 2010 at 1.

[20] A Nation in Debt: How we killed thrift, enthroned loan sharks and undermined American prosperity at 10.

[21] Some Futures Are Brighter Than Others: The Net Benefits Received By Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Recipients at 122. Harriet A. Stranahan and Mary O. Borg. Public Finance Review, Vol. 31 No. 1, January 2004.

[22] Hope and Hard Luck. Sarah Ovaska, NC Policy Watch. Dec. 17, 2010. Available at http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2010/12/17/hope-and-hard-luck/.

[23] *Id.*

[24] For Schools, Lottery Payoffs Fall Short of Promises. Ron Stodghill and Ron Nixon. New York Times, October 7, 2007. Available at

LATE TESTIMONY

- The average number of times gambled is also lower in states with zero or one forms of legal gambling (23 times) versus states with two to six forms of legal gambling (40-50 times).[34]

The most disadvantaged spend more on gambling and are more likely to be problem gamblers. For example, in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, 48% of people earning less than $20,000 a year said they were "likely" or "very likely" to gamble at a newly opened casino—the most likely out of any income bracket. Conversely, those with the most disposable income—those earning more than $100,000—were the least likely to gamble, with only 20% saying they were likely or very likely to gamble.[35]

The costs of gambling are high for people already facing disadvantages. Individuals in substance abuse or psychiatric treatment are four to ten times as likely to be problem or pathological gamblers.[36] In addition, there are many social costs, including negative financial effects, such as bankruptcy or job loss, which push people deeper into poverty.[37]

Casinos have been shown to increase crime rates.

Not only do casinos increase problem or pathological gambling in their area, but casinos have also been empirically shown to increase the rates of serious crimes. An exhaustive study published in 2001 measured crime rates from 1977-1996 as regions outside of Nevada introduced gambling.[38] The study found that casinos resulted in increased crime rates of all seven FBI Index I crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft) except murder. Crime was initially low, but increased over time.[39] Around 8.6% of property crimes and 12.6% of violent crimes in casino counties were attributable to casinos, resulting in an average annual cost of $75 per adult per year in 1996.[40] These costs do not include related social costs such as direct regulatory costs, those related to employment and lost productivity, and increased social service and welfare costs.[41]

Unsurprisingly, some gamblers will turn to theft and financial crimes as a result of addiction.[42] The introduction of casinos has also been associated with increased alcohol-related fatal traffic accidents, presumably because casinos often serve alcohol to their customers.[43]

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[33] *Id.* at 418.
[34] *Id.* at 419.
[35] Gambling Behaviors and Perceptions of the Effects of Gambling in Lehigh Valley: 2009 Survey of Residents. Michael Moser Deegan et al. Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, Feb. 2010 at 7. Available at http://www.lehighvalleyresearch.org/files/articles/GAMBLING_REPORT_2009_final.pdf.
[36] "Pathological Gambling," Marc N. Potenz, et al. Journal of the American Medical Association, July 11, 2001, p. 141.
[37] Gambling in the Golden State, *supra* at 135-6.
[38] Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. Earl L. Grinols and David B. Mustard. The Review of Economics and Statistics, 88, 1, February 2006, 28-45. Available at http://www.maine.com/editions/2006-05-15/images/20060531000107C.pdf. Page numbers cited are from the version posted at this URL.
[39] *Id.* at 1.
[40] *Id.* at 17.
[41] *Id.* at 17.
[42] Gambling addiction leads many down criminal road. Jeremy Boren, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. June 19, 2011. Available at http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_742867.html.

LATE TESTIMONY

♦ **The gaming industry has frequently targeted Asian American customers.**

Another source of concern is that the mainland gambling industry has made significant outreach and marketing efforts to Asian Americans customers.

- Some of the methods used include targeted advertising and presence at cultural events, free transportation or meals, Asian performers, and adding Asian-style games to their floors.[44]
- Many Asian Americans have grown up viewing gambling as socially acceptable or as a part of their culture, making them more vulnerable to casinos' marketing tactics.[45]

It seems likely that, in addition to targeting the tourist market (many of whom are Asians themselves), the gaming industry will target the local Asian American community, leading to a disproportionately negative effect on low-income Asian Americans.[46]

♦ **Conclusion**

Legalized gambling, including lotteries, often negatively impact the entire community, but the harms are even greater for those living in poverty. The people with the least to lose are the ones who end up spending the most, yet they generally receive the fewest benefits and face greater harm. Areas already prone to socioeconomic disadvantage and crime may have these problems exacerbated by the presence of casinos. Casinos and lotteries also engage in predatory tactics that disproportionately draw in low-income individuals. While lottery practices are not identical to those in casinos, evidence around casino gambling indicates that there may be analogous risks. Moreover, the purported economic benefits are far from certain. Research shows that the risks to low-income people are serious and we should not turn to legalized gambling and lotteries as a quick fix solution to address budget gaps.

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[43] The impact of casinos on fatal alcohol-related traffic accidents in the United States. Chad D. Cotti and Douglas M. Walker. Journal of Health Economics, 2010. Available at http://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/Journal-of-Health-Economics-Impact-of-Casinos-on-Fatal-Alcohol-related-Traffic-Accidents.pdf.
[44] "Asian Americans and Problem Gambling." Michael Liao. Problem Gambling Prevention, at 4. Available at http://www.napafasa.org/pgp/PGP.Asian%20Americans%20and%20Problem%20Gambling%20Rev.11.0321.pdf.
[45] *Id.* at 2.
[46] *See* "Dept. of Miserable Jobs: Sugarhouse's Asian Marketing Executive" on Young Philly Politics for more examples of how the gambling industry targets Asian Americans, including targeting Asian American seniors, providing transportation from Asian American neighborhoods to casinos, and advertising in Asian languages. Available at http://youngphillypolitics.com/dept_miserable_jobs_sugarhouse039s_asian_marketing_executive. More analysis is available at Gambling in the Golden State, *supra*, 130-1. Available at http://ag.ca.gov/gambling/pdfs/GS98.pdf.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:39 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: dreanalee.k.kalili@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB2379_HHL_02-01-12_HAW.doc

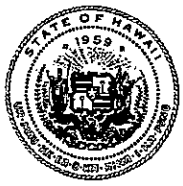
LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Alapaki Nahale-a
Organization: Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
E-mail: dreanalee.k.kalili@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAI'I



LATE TESTIMONY

ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

MICHELLE K. KAUHANE
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

M. WAIALEALE SARSONA
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96805

ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
PROVIDING COMMENTS ON

HB 2379, RELATING TO GAMING

February 1, 2012

Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

HB 2379 amends the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to grant the commission the authority to determine whether to allow gaming operations Hawaiian Home Lands non-homestead lands.

The department appreciates that this measure would authorize our decision-making body to determine whether gaming appropriate for Hawaiian home lands and our trust. This is a true form of self-determination. In consideration of the conclusion of the Act 14 settlement payments, the department is also eager to establish a consistent and sustainable revenue source to financially support our programs, and we are open to all possibilities.

The concept of gaming on Hawaiian home lands elicits mixed, yet strong reactions from our beneficiaries. Many are concerned about the potential disadvantages associated with gaming, like negative impacts to local businesses, difficulties with and cost of regulation, and social costs which may unintentionally be a negative impact to our beneficiaries and to the state. Given these concerns, if this measure

passes we will work very diligently to determine with our beneficiaries if this is worthwhile venture for Hawaiian Home Lands before we committed to any action. Finally, this proposed amendment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act most likely requires Congressional consent. These factors may delay implementation of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

clee1 - Lina

From:	Bader, Sue Ellen N. [sbader@honolulu.gov]
Sent:	Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:46 PM
To:	HAWtestimony
Cc:	Bader, Sue Ellen N.; Bennett-Bagorio, Cassandra; Bugarin, Patrick; Lau, William G.; Abe, Traci; Dowsett, Susan; Inouye, Jerry J.; McEntire, John; Smyth, Carol D. C.
Subject:	Testimony for House Bill 2379, Relating to Gaming
Attachments:	HB2379, GAMING, OPPOSE.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

Please find attached, testimony for House Bill 2379, Relating to Gaming, scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in conference room 329.

With Integrity, Respect and Fairness,

Sue Ellen Bader
Legislative Liaison Office
Phone: 723-3770
Fax: 529-3910
sbader@honolulu.gov

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE JM-TA

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
and Members
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hanohano and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2379, Relating to Gaming

I am John McEntire, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes House Bill No. 2379, Relating to Gaming.

In keeping with our conviction of sustaining and enriching communities, we are strongly opposed to all forms of gambling.

Studies have shown that legalizing gambling leads to increased crime. It can also lead to problems such as bankruptcy, theft, embezzlement, suicide, child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, divorce, incarceration, work absences, and homelessness. Gambling can cause family members to take unsound financial risks for a chance to improve their economic status, while the odds are greatly against them doing so.

By holding steadfast against the legalization of all forms of gambling, the Honolulu Police Department keeps its pledge to work in partnership to enhance and strengthen our communities by enforcing the state and county statutes.

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose House Bill No. 2379, Relating to Gaming.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

JOHN McENTIRE, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:

for LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:57 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: ainokea_69@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaleialii D. Baldwin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ainokea_69@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Strongly oppose this bill. I believe the negatives out way the positives when it comes to the issue of gaming,gambling in whatever shape or form.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:50 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: ashtonsaifoloi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashton Saifoloi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ashtonsaifoloi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
I absolutely oppose this bill. We don't need more crime and violence and broken families.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:29 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: mgrambs@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2379 testimony 1-31-12.doc

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marya Grambs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mgrambs@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

January 31, 2011

TO: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Rep. Faye P. Hanohano; Vice Chair, Rep. Chris Lee

FR: Marya Grambs

RE: HB2379, RELATED TO GAMING

Dear Rep. Hanohano and Rep. Lee:

I am writing in opposition to HB2379. I don't believe that gambling has any place in the Aloha state, and will bring in more negative impacts (gambling addiction, poverty, violence) than positive ones. While it may seem like a "quick fix" economically, inducing Hawaiian residents to stay home to gamble instead of going to Las Vegas, and attracting more tourists, I think in the long run it will cost more in human misery and the concomitant costs, as many studies have shown.

Thank you.

Marya Grambs
140 Kaelepulu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:55 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2379 on 2/1/2012 8:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kealii Makekau
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
SECTION 2. Section 204.5, Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, is amended to read as follows: 204.5. Additional powers. In addition and supplemental to the powers granted to the department by law, and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department may:(5) Develop Hawaiian home lands, as authorized by the commission pursuant to section A, for the purpose of establishing any and all type of gaming operations subject to chapter Hawaii Revised Statutes.

To:Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair,House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
From: Rev. Bob Nakata, Chair, Division of Church and Society
Bob Nakata Hawaii District, The United Methodist Church
Re: House Bill 2379, Relating To Gaming

Dear Chair Hanohano and Members of the Committee,
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong opposition against this Bill. The entire worldwide United Methodist Church has historically taken an extremely strong position against any and all forms of legalized gambling, viewing it as a menace to society as is stated in our attached Social Principles.

I myself questioned it's strength until I saw the consequences of the 2008 economic collapse. It wasvery much a consequence of the deregulation of Wall Street which turned into a casino.The risky behavior and bad bets plunged millions of into a recession from which we are still reeling and may take years for full recovery to take place.
This vindicates the strength of our position. Therefore we urge you to hold this Bill.

G) Gambling—Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, destructive of good government and good stewardship. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice. Where gambling has become addictive, the Church will encourage such individuals to receive therapeutic assistance so that the individual's energies may be redirected into positive and constructive ends. The Church acknowledges the dichotomy that can occur when opposing gambling while supporting American Indian tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Therefore, the Church's role is to create sacred space to allow for dialogue and education that will promote a holistic understanding of the American Indians' historic quest for survival. The Church's prophetic call is to promote standards of justice and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling—including public lotteries, casinos, raffles, Internet gambling, gambling with an emerging wireless technology and other games of chance—as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government.

2/1/12

HB2379 RELATED TO GAMING

SUPPORT

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