

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO ESTABLISH A GAMBLING TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN EVIDENCE-
BASED FRAMEWORK WITH AN APPRAISAL OF THE RESOURCES
NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SAFETY AND
MITIGATE GAMBLING-RELATED HARM IN ORDER TO GUIDE FUTURE
GAMBLING LEGISLATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, in the face of an unprecedented and historic
2 budget shortfall as a result of the ongoing coronavirus disease
3 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the State of Hawaii must seek
4 alternative means of revenue by continuing to diversify and
5 expand its economy; and
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7 WHEREAS, legalized gambling in Hawaii remains a popular
8 idea and resurfaces in some form in nearly every legislative
9 session as a mechanism to generate additional state revenues to
10 maintain important social programs, create jobs, expand economic
11 growth, and to help Hawaii compete in an increasingly
12 competitive global tourism market; and
13

14 WHEREAS, presently, Hawaii is one of only two states in the
15 country to have an outright ban on all forms of gambling, along
16 with Utah, while all other states permit legal gambling in some
17 form or another, whether it be charitable games, state
18 lotteries, or other games; and
19

20 WHEREAS, there is also strong opposition to legalized
21 gambling in Hawaii based on concerns that it would negatively
22 impact the public's health and safety based on gambling's
23 addictive effect and other potential harms that may arise,
24 including impacts on lower-income individuals, implications of
25 sex trafficking, domestic violence, increased criminal activity,
26 increased high school drop-out rates, and undesirable tourism
27 effects; and
28



1 WHEREAS, to date opposition to legalized gambling has
2 resulted in the swift rejection and dismissal of ideas and
3 proposals before there is an adequate opportunity to debate and
4 discuss the efficacy of allowing regulated gambling in Hawaii;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, it is important to protect the people of Hawaii
8 from harm, as the people are a valuable natural resource and
9 should be protected like any of Hawaii's delicate ecosystems;
10 and

11
12 WHEREAS, it is also important to achieve a more productive
13 and advanced discourse on whether Hawaii should pursue legalized
14 gambling by examining public health and safety concerns, which
15 will also lower the bureaucratic burden by ensuring that any
16 steps toward legalized gambling are scientific and data-driven;
17 now, therefore,

18
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
22 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Department
23 of Health are requested to convene a gambling task force to
24 develop an evidence-based research and policy framework that
25 will guide future policy and decision-making surrounding
26 legalizing gambling in Hawaii to address the following:

- 27
28 (1) An assessment of the negative impacts of gambling
29 before and after initiation of legalized gambling to
30 include a baseline prevalence study to establish the
31 current state of gambling along the spectrum from
32 recreational to problem gambling by demographic
33 variables such as age, gender, location, and community
34 membership;
35
36 (2) A focused evaluation of gambling and vulnerable
37 populations to include the attitudes of individuals of
38 these groups and how they would be positively and
39 negatively affected by legalized gambling and the
40 necessary safeguards to amplify the positive and
41 mitigate the negative consequences;
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- 1 (3) Identify a responsible gambling framework for
2 regulation of gambling operators to include evaluation
3 of card-based systems, limit setting strategies,
4 player ambassadors, and other mechanisms used
5 internationally to assist players in making informed
6 choices and engaging positive play;
7
- 8 (4) Assess integrated tourism planning to understand, at
9 multiple, levels how to maximize strategic
10 differentiation in any tourism-based gaming products
11 and to minimize cannibalistic effects on local
12 populations;
13
- 14 (5) Develop economic impact studies to assess the effect
15 of gaming facilities on communities and the
16 feasibility of asset-based incentive programs for
17 specific communities;
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- 19 (6) Provide evidence-based strategies for education of
20 youth and prevention of underage gambling as well as
21 development of an identification and treatment network
22 for those with gambling problems; and
23
- 24 (7) Develop training and certification for problem
25 gambling counselors as well as operator staff and
26 employees; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the research should be funded
29 by a dedicated protected revenue stream, outside of the general
30 fund, to ensure independent analysis of the following key
31 research inquiries to:

- 32
- 33 (1) Evaluate the disparities between the Honolulu Police
34 Department's reported number of illegal gambling
35 rooms, which ranged between seventy to one hundred,
36 with the number of gambling arrests, which included
37 thirty-four in 2019 and forty-four in 2018;
38
- 39 (2) Address reports issued by the Hawaii State Commission
40 on the Status of Women and law enforcement agencies
41 regarding legalized gambling's implications to sex
42 trafficking, domestic violence, dropout rates, and



1 undesirable tourism effects to determine whether the
2 information provided was evidence-based and considered
3 in the appropriate contexts; and
4

- 5 (3) Identify the appropriate prevention, education, and
6 treatment options for what one study estimated at
7 \$26.3 million dollars in social costs to the State
8 from twenty thousand problematic and ten thousand
9 pathological gamblers in Hawaii; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the long-term policy goals of
12 any future gambling legislation include:
13

- 14 (1) Culturally competent policy analysis and policy
15 recommendations;
16
17 (2) Understanding of the range of impacts based on
18 gambling type (slots, table games, race and sports,
19 daily fantasy, poker, bingo, keno, and lottery);
20
21 (3) Optimal locations for gaming facilities and site-
22 specific feasibility studies;
23
24 (4) Regulatory recommendations, including licensing,
25 compliance, and suspicious activity monitoring;
26
27 (5) Workforce capabilities assessments and development of
28 training programs; and
29
30 (6) Protections and incentives for vulnerable populations
31 and native Hawaiians to develop responsible gambling
32 habits; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
35 the following members:
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- 37 (1) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
38 Tourism, or the Director's designee, who shall serve
39 as the chairperson of the task force;
40
41 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 1 (3) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the
2 Director's designee;
- 3
- 4 (4) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's
5 designee;
- 6
- 7 (5) A member of the public with knowledge of legalized
8 gambling, to be invited by the President of the Senate
9 to participate; and
- 10
- 11 (6) A member of the public with knowledge of legalized
12 gambling, to be invited by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives to participate; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
16 Economic Development, and Tourism shall provide administrative
17 support to the task force; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
20 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
21 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
22 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of
23 2022 and 2023; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall dissolve
26 on June 30, 2023; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
30 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the
31 Department of Health; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
32 and the Attorney General.

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OFFERED BY: _____

