

Sean Quinlan, Chair
Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development

Ray Cho, Ph.D.

Tuesday, March 24, 2021

Written testimony in support of HR114 and HCR134 related to the development of evidence-based research and a policy framework to guide decision-making on gambling-related issues.

To Chair Quinlan and Vice Chair Holt,

My name is Ray Cho. I grew up in Hawaii, graduated from Kalani High School, and went on to earn my PhD in Hospitality from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. I am a postdoctoral researcher for the Center for Gambling Studies at the Rutgers School of Social Work. I lived in Las Vegas for 11 years and have studied gambling from multiple angles. In addition to my oral testimony, I am writing in SUPPORT of HR114 and HCR 134.

Addressing gambling as a public health and safety issue is an important first step to ensuring sufficient debate on what has been a recurrent idea. Questions regarding the efficacy of regulated gambling can be addressed more effectively. Research on relevant public health and safety concerns and an evidenced-based policy framework are necessary to guide decision-making on gambling-related issues. Research can also help to address critical community issues.

Mahalo,
Ray Cho, Ph.D.