



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25 - 42

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE UNLAWFUL GAMBLING ROOM PREVENTION AND REPORTING PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, Sections 712-1221 through 712-1226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, prohibit gambling in most forms and gambling-related activities in the State of Hawai'i ("State"); and

WHEREAS, gambling in unlawful gambling rooms in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") continues to be a pervasive problem that threatens public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department estimates that there were about 60 active illegal game rooms in the City as of October 2024; and

WHEREAS, illegal game rooms attract criminal activity, with incidents involving drugs, weapons, prostitution, human trafficking, and violent crime in residential communities, as well as increased traffic, parking complaints, and noise; and

WHEREAS, while criminal prosecution, civil nuisance abatement, and civil asset forfeiture are tools to combat illegal game rooms, it is difficult to prevent illegal game rooms from reopening after they have been shut down because they are easily launched and are very lucrative; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2024, the City Council ("Council") adopted Resolution 24-143, CD1, FD1, *Establishing a Task Force on Gambling Rooms* ("Task Force") to "advise and assist the Council [in] identifying and developing solutions to combat the ongoing proliferation of illegal game room operations in the City"; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2024, the *Report of the Task Force on Gambling Rooms Regarding Illegal Game Room Operations in the City and County of Honolulu* was transmitted to Councilmembers as Council Communication 252 (2024) (the "Report"); and

WHEREAS, the Report recognized the severity of the on-going problem, noting that "despite the State's prohibition, illegal gambling continues to be a pervasive problem that threatens public safety and welfare, particularly in the form of illegal video machine type game rooms with multiple electronic gambling devices"; and



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WHEREAS, in the Report, the Task Force discussed obstacles and barriers to community engagement in shutting down illegal gambling room operations, including the fear of retaliation; distrust in government agencies or concerns that no action will be taken even if illegal activity is reported; lack of knowledge or education regarding the reporting process; and language barriers, particularly among immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, to educate the public and mitigate the obstacles and barriers cited above, the Task Force recommended that the City establish the following preventive societal programs:

- A. Public outreach programs in each of the nine Council districts designed to prevent unlawful gambling room activity, including:
 - 1. A program to provide information relating to financial literacy, including ongoing workshops, and employment;
 - 2. A family program, including voluntary participation by local schools, to provide:
 - a. Mental health support and intervention;
 - b. Recreation; and
 - c. Opportunities for related private-public partnerships, including voluntary participation by the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health, and relevant nonprofit organizations; and
 - 3. A community survey program to solicit and analyze information provided by the community concerning the prevention and abatement of unlawful gambling room activity in the community;
- B. A program to provide public service announcements to the City to prevent unlawful gambling room activity, including the following elements: clearly-targeted audiences; clear messaging and calls-to-action for community members; and a plan to periodically evaluate the program for the purpose of determining actions necessary to improve the program; and



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- C. A program to encourage and allow community members to report suspected or actual unlawful gambling room activities to appropriate law enforcement authorities through various online modalities, including a dedicated hotline; dedicated website assistance with a chat capacity; and an application; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that community education and engagement is critical to preventing the establishment and the continuation of unlawful gambling room activities in the City; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to provide unlawful gambling room prevention and reporting programs as detailed in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to provide to the Council, no later than January 15 of each year, a detailed report providing information for the preceding calendar year regarding each program established at the request of this resolution; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Chief of Police, the Prosecuting Attorney, and the Corporation Counsel.

INTRODUCED BY:

A. Ippola
Da

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 29 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 25-42

Introduced: 01/29/25 By: ANDRIA TUPOLA
SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER
SERVICES (PS)

Title: URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE UNLAWFUL GAMBLING ROOM PREVENTION AND
REPORTING PROGRAMS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

01/29/25	INTRO	Introduced.
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03/06/25	PS	Reported out for adoption.
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CR-93

5 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, WEYER

03/19/25	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted.
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9 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this
RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER