

BILL011(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 99

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Michael Rice	Email: michaelirice@outlook.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Feb 24, 2025 @ 09:03 AM
Testimony: While I support the intent of the bill, I have some concerns that it may have some unintended consequences for businesses as well as events. The wording for exemptions, 'Electronic amusement device or device does not include ping pong tables, music devices, vending machines, or any rides for which no element of chance, bonus, or prize is involved.' should include things like arcade cabinets or other devices where no prize is involved. As currently worded if a business has an arcade cabinet upon the premises which does not give a prize, they would be required to get a permit. Under the section which outlines when permits are to be denied, some of the categories may be a bit too broad. As mentioned above there are no exemptions for devices like arcade cabinets. So a business like a bar, which would most likely have had someone 'arrested for an offense relating to alcoholic beverages' would not be able to get such a permit at all. So any event held at a public location where such an arrest occurred would be automatically precluded from getting a permit. As another potential example, events such as 'Kawaii Kon' and 'Amazing Comic Con' take place at the Hawaii Convention center. These Conventions often have Arcade Cabinets and occasionally video game tournaments with cash prizes. If someone was arrested for a drunk and disorderly offense at the Hawaii Convention Center, these events are now illegal. There would also be some confusion as to who would need to get the permit in these cases, whether it be the Organizers of the Event, the Exhibitor who brings the devices onto the property, or the Property Manager. Organization of these events are usually ran by volunteers and things change quickly at the last minute. Entertainment Devices may need to be placed somewhere other than the location listed on the permit, the person controlling the devices may change due to a scheduling conflict, ect. Thank you for hearing my concerns regarding this matter.		
Name: Kioni Dudley	Email: DrKioniDudley@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Feb 24, 2025 @ 09:45 AM
Testimony: No no no no no no no		
Name: Joseph Simpliciano	Email: jks0609@gmail.com	Zip: 96792

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2025 @ 01:11 PM
Testimony: For far too long I have witnessed illegal gambling and how it destroy's our public beaches, harbors and parks. This is happening all throughout the westside as well. I have witnessed the revolving door of drug abuse and domestic violence due to illegal gambling on devices. Couples physically fighting, face and lip is busted open because the other half lost all of their money at the gambling room gambling machines, gambling apps is a Trojan horse and having stricter and harder laws is a win.		
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Feb 24, 2025 @ 10:51 PM
Name: Gail Gomes	Email: wss@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 12:19 PM
Name: Mike Lambert	Email: kathy.y.sio@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Department of Law Enforcement	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2025 @ 08:54 AM

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 11, Electronic Amusement Devices – **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 11, which relates to Electronic Amusement Devices.

The definition of “electronic amusement device” includes electronic games of skill or video games that are available to the public for use or play and requires payment of money or other valuable consideration.

The bill would disallow anyone without a permit from displaying an electronic amusement device.

There are all kinds of video games that are available to the public these days that would fit that definition. **Please review this definition**, as I think it is not the intent of this bill to require everyone who plays video games who may display them to others to have a permit to do so.

Gail Gomes
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February 25, 2025

To: Members of the Honolulu City Council

RE: Bills 11, 12 and 13

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am in **strong support** of Bills 11, 12 and 13 being heard by you on 2/26/25.

While each of them is a bit different, they each figure into gambling and game rooms which have become a real problem not only in commercial areas but in many residential areas (including my own).

Bill 11 which relates to "Relating to electronic amusement devices. (Providing for the strict regulation of electronic amusement devices to protect public health, safety, and welfare)" would still allow places who feature games for children to continue (i.e. Chucky Cheese, Johnny Rocket's, etc.). It would eliminate many of these gambling machines which are popping up not only in game rooms but bars and restaurants.

Bill 12 which relates to "Addressing public nuisances relating to gambling activities throughout the City and County of Honolulu)" is long overdue again with the amount of "game rooms" now firmly established in many areas. Sad to say that the one in my residential neighborhood has been there for over 3 years now despite the many attempts from HPD to shut it down and they of course reopen in less than a week. We have witnessed drug trafficking, prostitution, sales of stolen items, etc. along with the traffic in our neighborhood and the "less than desirable" people that visit and hang outside during the day and nights.

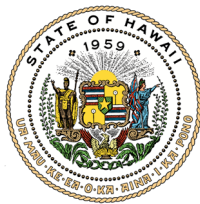
Bill 13 which relates to "Addressing private real property subject to a lease, rental agreement, or HRS Chapter 521, Relating to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code." I understand that this bill would allow owners to authorize police to inspect property that is rented out without the requirement of a warrant. I'm sure that HPD would never inspect a property without just cause and as many landlords are afraid to inspect properties due to the bouncers/bodyguards that hang outside 24/7.

PLEASE support Bills 11, 12 and 13 and allow them to go forward for further research and discussion. We would love to have our safe neighborhoods back!

Mahalo for allowing me to testify!

Gail Gomes

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL BILL 11
RELATING TO ELECTRONIC AMUSEMENT DEVICES**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

City Council Chamber

Testifiers: Mike Lambert

Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Bill 11, which aims to regulate electronic amusement devices within the City and County of Honolulu. This legislation is a crucial step toward safeguarding our communities from the adverse impacts associated with these devices.

Electronic amusement devices, while intended for entertainment, have been linked to various negative neighborhood impacts, including:

1. **Criminal Activity:** Unregulated devices can become hotspots for illegal gambling and other unlawful activities.
2. **Noise and Traffic Congestion:** Establishments housing these devices often attract large crowds, leading to increased noise levels and traffic issues.
3. **Vandalism and Litter:** The influx of patrons can result in property damage and increased littering in surrounding areas.

By implementing strict regulations, Bill 11 addresses these concerns, promoting a safer and more harmonious environment for all residents.

The bill emphasizes the responsibility of property owners and managers to prevent unlawful gambling and other illicit activities on their premises. Key provisions include:

1. **Mandatory Permits:** Requiring annual or temporary permits for all electronic amusement devices ensures that only vetted and compliant devices are operational.
2. **Comprehensive Application Process:** Applicants must provide detailed information, including ownership details and device locations, facilitating thorough oversight by the Honolulu Police Department.
3. **Clear Definitions and Enforcement:** The bill outlines specific definitions for terms such as "electronic amusement device," "gambling," and "operator," providing clarity for enforcement and compliance.

I commend the Honolulu City Council for addressing this pressing issue and urge the swift passage of Bill 11. Implementing these regulations will significantly enhance the quality of life in our communities and ensure that entertainment venues operate responsibly and lawfully. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

