



# PHOCUSED

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

February 9, 2010

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TO: Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair

FROM: Alex Santiago  
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children, UnderServed, Elderly and Disabled)

RE: HB 146, Proposing an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to permit gambling in the state of Hawaii.

Chair Karamatsu and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Alex Santiago, the Executive Director of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii. PHOCUSED is opposed to this measure.

As advocates for the Health and Human Services sector we believe that gaming is not the solution to our budget problems. We are concerned about the long-term negative social impacts gaming will have on our state and the people for whom we advocate. While we recognize the need to raise revenues, we feel strongly that this is not the best way to go about doing that.

PHOCUSED respectfully requests that this measure be held in committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.