

1330

REDACTED

# MEMO



DATE: June 3, 2009

TO: Governor Linda Lingle  
Speaker Calvin Say  
President Colleen Hanabusa  
Senate Ways & Means Chair, Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
House Finance Chair, Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Senate Majority Leader, Senator Gary Hooser  
House Majority Leader, Representative Blake Oshiro  
Senate Minority Leader, Senator Fred Hemmings  
House Minority Leader Representative Lynn Finnegan

FROM: John H. Radcliffe   
President, Radcliffe & Associates  
Vice President, Capitol Consultants of Hawaii, LLP

RE: **CASINO GAMING**

---

I thought that you might be interested in reading a study done ten years ago this month, on the economic implications of having two casinos on Oahu. The study, albeit a draft, was widely circulated among legislative circles then, and, because of the current situation vis a vis the economy, I thought that it might be of interest to you now. Please note that the study indicates that the two casinos would have generated over 19,000 jobs and nearly \$712,000,000.00 in revenue, annually.

Forty-six states now have casinos, and only four do not. Hawaii is one of the four, and the only one that is a major tourist destination in the world.

Forty-eight states have some form of legalized gambling to control illegal gaming within their borders and to generate taxes, and only two do not. The other remaining state, Utah, being as close as any American state gets to being controlled by a religion. In that case Mormonism.

No gaming interests are knocking at our state's door. Gaming interests are like any other business interests, and won't go where they are not wanted, and none appear to have any interest in locating here, because they are not wanted.

Casino Gaming  
June 8, 2009  
Page 2

Still, policy makers will have to come up with some alternative to severely cutting public services, pay, and benefits. At some point a "Plan B" may become necessary.

Plan "A," cutting public services, pay, and raising taxes has severe consequences. Legalizing gambling would, I believe, have less severe consequences.

Until now, despite any political titillation to the contrary, casino gaming has never been seriously considered. But until public policy makers actually do seriously consider it, are you absolutely sure that the other alternatives that are now being undertaken are better?