

MAR 10 2009

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEDICAL AND BRAIN INJURY EXPERTS, TO WORK WITH THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE CONCUSSION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ATHLETES.

1           WHEREAS, closed head injuries, also known as concussions,  
2 are a serious and growing public health issue for athletes  
3 involved in contact sports; and  
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5           WHEREAS, mild concussions can be difficult to detect and,  
6 along with more serious head injuries, can have long-term  
7 effects such as memory loss, impairments in attention, and motor  
8 deficits; and  
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10          WHEREAS, the culture of playing through pain or "toughing  
11 it out" can put athletes at risk, and allowing an athlete to  
12 return to play too early after a concussion increases the chance  
13 of more serious brain injury; and  
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15          WHEREAS, concussions have a cumulative effect and each  
16 concussion makes a person more vulnerable to another concussion;  
17 and  
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19          WHEREAS, when a second concussion follows shortly after an  
20 initial one, it can cause rapid brain swelling that can result  
21 in coma or even death in rare cases; and  
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23          WHEREAS, recent research reveals that multiple concussions  
24 may also lead to clinical depression; and  
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26          WHEREAS, five to eight per cent of athletes in state public  
27 high school suffer concussions each year; and  
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29          WHEREAS, at the high school level, football is the riskiest  
30 sport when it comes to concussions, followed by girls soccer;  
31 and  
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1 WHEREAS, awareness about the prevention, identification,  
2 and treatment of concussions is lacking; now, therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
6 that the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii  
7 are requested to work with the State's athletic community, in  
8 consultation with medical and brain injury experts, to develop a  
9 statewide concussion prevention and awareness program directed  
10 at young athletes; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goal of such a program  
13 would be to educate student athletes, parents, educators,  
14 athletic directors, and the general public about the symptoms  
15 and dangers of concussion and to encourage concussion  
16 prevention; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the architects of the program  
19 are requested to recommend strategies for program  
20 implementation; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,  
24 the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the President of the  
25 University of Hawaii, the President of the Hawaii Medical  
26 Association, the Executive Director of the Hawaii High School  
27 Athletic Association, and the President of the Brain Injury  
28 Association of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: Rosely H Baker

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