

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2008

Committee: House Education/House
Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. 159 (H.R. 132), 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.

Purpose: The Department of Education and the University of Hawaii are requested to work with the State's athletic community, in consultation with medical and brain injury experts, to develop a statewide concussion prevention and awareness program directed at young athletes.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support H.C.R. 159 (H.R. 132), as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) already has a concussion tool kit for coaches, athletes, parents and physicians. These tool kits can be downloaded from the CDC website for free. Included in these kits are steps to preventing and preparing for a concussion, signs and symptoms of a concussion, facts sheets for parents and coaches, as well as an action plan for

coaches. For the athletic trainers and coaches, there is an on-field palm card which describes signs and symptoms and an on-field evaluation mental status assessment. At this time, the Department does not recognize the need for this resolution.

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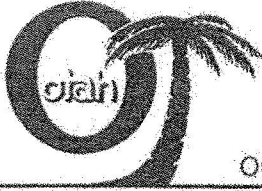
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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**Testimony by:
Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA**

**HCR 159, Requesting the DOE and UH,
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
House EDN/HED Committee
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Room 309, 2:00 pm**

Position: Support with comments

Chairs Takumi and Chang, and Members of the House EDN/HED Committees:

I am Virginia Tully, OTR, and President of OTAH. The Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, and prisons, to private facilities and community programs. We work with very young children, ages 0-3, as well as school aged children, adults, and the elderly, seeking to restore or develop social-emotional, physical, cognitive, communication and adaptive behavior challenges.

Through understanding of the effect of the consumer's disability, illness and impairment, the occupational therapist develops a program that will promote development and establish needed skills to be independent in daily living activities. Daily living skills include self-care such as bathing, dressing, and skills required for learning, work or social interaction. Often times, OTs must design/fabricate special devices or suggest modification to the home environment.

We support this resolution that seeks to develop a statewide concussion prevention and awareness program for young athletes, and suggest that it be available to all students enrolled in public and private schools. We suggest that education efforts focus on the major sports-related injuries that might result in mild to severe functional problems that affect daily functioning as well as learning. In addition to concussion, sports injuries can result in spinal cord injuries or a combination of brain and spinal cord injuries. Memory loss, problem solving ability, and behavior problems such as impulsivity and agitation are possible results of brain injury.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I can be reached at 544-3336 if further information is needed.

Person Testifying: Darryl T. Funai, President, Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association
Assistant Athletic Trainer, Punahou School

Regarding: HR 132 (H.C.R. 159) – Relating to School Sports Concussions

Purpose: To request 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.

Statement:

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association (HATA) does not support H.R. 132 (H.C.R. 159).

While HATA agrees that concussions are a serious and potentially debilitating injury if not treated properly, concussions account for a small percentage of athletic injuries reported annually. Since 1988, concussions accounted for only 1.65% of all athletic injuries at Punahou School.

With concussions, early detection is vital. Certified athletic trainers are usually the first responders to athletic injuries. Certified athletic trainers in the Hawaii high schools follow concussion management protocols developed by the medical profession for evaluation of concussions.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has developed an educational plan, created by a panel of national experts, that targets the same population (athletes, coaches, parents, and physicians) with specific material. It would be prudent to follow those guidelines instead spending our resources to create our own.

In summary, HATA does not recognize the need for this resolution.

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Person Testifying: Glenn Beachy, Head Athletic Trainer, Punahou School

Regarding: HR 132 (H.C.R. 159) – Relating to School Sports Concussions

Purpose: To request 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.

Statement:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has developed an educational plan (Heads Up, Concussion in High School Sport), that targets athletes, coaches, and parents with specific material regarding concussion management and treatment. The CDC has also developed a physician specific tool (Heads Up, Brain Injury in Your Practice) to assist the medical community in understanding the consequences of Mild Brain Injury.

These documents were created by a panel of national experts; specialists in Mild Brain Injury management. This information is available free, on-line at the CDC websites listed below.

www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/physicians_tool_kit.htm

www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/tbi_toolkit/patients/preventing.htm

HR 132 proposes a duplication of the excellent work complete by the CDC. Making the Hawaii public and medical community aware of the readily available information would be of better service.

For these reasons, I oppose HR 132 (H.C.R. 159) – Relating to School Sports Concussions

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TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HIGHER
EDUCATION ON HCR 159 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEDICAL AND
BRAIN INJURY EXPERTS TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE CONCUSSION
PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ATHLETES.

My name is Cynthia Clivio and I have been a full time secondary school athletic trainer in Hawaii for the past 21 years. I would ask that HCR 159 be amended to include the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association in its list of medical experts involved in any prevention, awareness, and education programs involving secondary school aged athletes. The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association is the professional association representing Hawaii's Certified Athletic Trainers.

Certified Athletic Trainers are medical professionals with expertise in the prevention, assessment, treatment (emergency, acute, and on-going care), referral and rehabilitation of illnesses and injuries to the physically active. Certified Athletic Trainers work under the guidance of personal and or team physicians. The state of Hawaii is the nationwide leader in providing medical care to secondary school aged athletes. This is because the state legislature affirmed the value of Certified Athletic Trainers by funding positions otherwise known in the DOE as Athletic Health Care Specialists in each of our state's public high schools.

Athletic Trainers are the first medical personnel to see and evaluate an injured athlete and the last person, in consultation with their personnel physicians, to return an injured athlete back to play. Athletic Trainers are the primary communicators between injured athletes, parents, coaches, and physicians. Prevention, education, counseling and referrals are already parts of athletic trainer's essential job responsibilities. Therefore any education and awareness program should include athletic trainers.

Concussions have received an increased amount of media attention over the past few years. The most serious injuries garnering the most attention are those which are deemed second impact concussions. This is when a second brain injury is received before the first has healed. If anyone reviews the newspaper and television accounts of these he will find two common threads. The first is that nearly all of the students lacked access to a certified athletic trainer and secondly that the concussions were not reported to coaches, parents, or physicians. Locally, there has been a marked increase in understanding of the nature of second impact concussions and how important it is for an athlete to fully recover from a head injury prior to being returned to play. I can whole heartedly say based on my 21 years in secondary school athletics that awareness of concussions, signs, symptoms, seriousness by coaches and players has improved considerably. Everyone

who works or coaches secondary school aged athletes would like to see that trend continue.

There are many tools available to the medical community to evaluate the severity and determine appropriate care of head injuries. None are exclusive and none are perfect. There are no programs which will claim they can prevent brain injuries from occurring because it is simply not possible. Athletic Trainers already have access to a number of educational materials regarding brain injury to create an awareness program. In summary I would like to request that the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association be included in developing any program that provides education and awareness for Hawaii's secondary school aged athletes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Cynthia Clivio