

**Date:** 03/22/2010

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HCR 238/HR167 Requesting the Department of Education to Establish a Task Force to Make Recommendations for an Educational Program for High School Athletic Coaches and Trainers to Avoid and Minimize Injuries to High School Athletes

**Purpose of Bill:** Requests the Department of Education to establish a task force to make recommendations for an educational program for high school athletic coaches and trainers to avoid and minimize injuries to high school athletes.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 238/HR 167, requesting the creation of a task force to make recommendations for an educational program for high school athletic coaches and athletic trainers to avoid and minimize injuries to high school athletes. Currently, the Department has 76 positions for athletic trainers in 43 high schools and in the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support. The Department's athletic trainers are all certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association, Board of Certification which requires its members to maintain continuing education units. Due to budgetary restrictions continuing education for athletic trainers has been limited to video conferences once or twice a year. Thus, athletic trainers must seek other opportunities (i.e., national conventions on the mainland or local seminars sponsored by accredited organizations) for continuing education in order to maintain their certification. If this task force is convened, funding must be established to pay for the cost of the task force including among other things airfare and per diem, and training of athletic staff, coaches and

athletic trainers annually.

The Department's coaches must participate in a coach's workshop within two years of their employment. Many coaches also attend sport specific and/or strength and conditioning workshops locally and nationally to improve their knowledge and expertise.

For athletic trainers and coaches continuing education is not uniform throughout the Department. It is an individual's choice to attend continuing education seminars and workshops.

The Department supports the establish of a task force to make recommendations for an educational program for high school athletic departments, as long as the education and training provided for our personnel is conducted by an accredited body, or professionals in the field, such as the National Athletic Trainers Association or National Strength and Conditioning Association or similar.

The Department recommends the following amendments regarding the composition of the task force, beginning on Page 2. (1) Item 5, amend "one athletic director from each of the Department of Education's school complex areas" to one athletic director from each island representing small and large schools, (2) Item 6, amend "one high school coach from each of the Department of Education's school complex areas," to "one coach from each island representing small and large schools, said coaches being from different sports;" (3) Delete Item 7 and replace with, one athletic trainer from each island representing small and large schools. Additionally, in Item 10, the Department suggests that a "sports medicine professional practitioner" be changed to "a sports medicine physician," as these individuals current collaborate with Department personnel on initiatives and activities related to athletics programs in the high school. The Department's budget has been reduced significantly, and without funding, it will not be able to convene the task force and support the work of the task force.

Testimony by: Ann Frost, PT  
HCR238/HR167, Requesting the Department of Education to  
Establish A Task Force to Make Recommendations for An  
Educational Program for High School Athletic Coaches and  
Trainers to Minimize Injuries to High School Athletes  
Hse EDN, Monday, March 22, 2010  
Room 309, 2:00 pm



**Position: Support, With Clarifying Amendments**

Chair Takumi and Members of the House EDN Committee:

I am Ann Frost, P.T., President of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) and member of HAPTA’s Legislative Committee. HAPTA represents 250-300 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health (DOH) systems, and private clinics throughout our community. Physical therapists work with everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

**HAPTA supports this measure and appreciates the creation of a Task Force to develop a mandatory prevention and minimization of injuries training and education program for those who work with student athletes. Appreciation is also expressed for the acknowledgement of physical therapists as part of the multi-disciplinary team that work with student athletes.**

**However, we must assert that a “non-professional physical therapist”, mentioned on page 3, lines 31-37, does not exist. HRS 461J-2, defines the practice of physical therapy; qualifications,**

(a) No person shall practice physical therapy gratuitously or for pay, offer to practice physical therapy, offer physical therapy or physical therapy services, or represent, advertise, or announce, either publicly or privately, that the person is a physical therapist or physiotherapist, unless the person is appropriately licensed under this chapter.

(b) No person shall use, in connection with the person's name or business, the words "licensed physical therapist", "physical therapist", or "physiotherapist", or the letters "RPT", "LPT", "PT", or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is a physical therapist, unless the person is appropriately licensed under this chapter.

(c) No person shall practice as a physical therapist except as licensed pursuant to this chapter and under the administrative rules and regulations determined by the board in accordance with chapter 91. [L 1985, c 276, pt of §1]

**As such, we recommend the following amendment to page 3, lines 31-37:**

**“(3) Educating coaches, assistant coaches and trainers on ways to identify and treat these early signs of potential injuries; and making coaches, assistant coaches and trainers aware of the availability of programs and treatments offered by ~~advanced professionals and non-professional~~ physical therapists and trainers.”**

**Further, we request that a designated representative of the Hawaii Chapter American Physical Therapy Association be included in the Task Force. Athletes are among the population that physical therapists treat, and we often develop injury prevention and rehabilitation programs.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide recommended language for consideration. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 382-2655.