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Date: 03/08/2010

Committee: House Tourism, Culture &
International Affairs

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2601, SD1 (SSCR 2390) Relating to Athletic Trainers

Purpose of Bill: Requires athletic trainers to register with the department of commerce and consumer affairs. (SD 1)

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2601, SD 1 requiring athletic trainers to register with the Department of Commerce and Consumer affairs, with two recommendations to the definitions in Section 2 of this Bill.

Currently, the Department has 76 positions for athletic trainers in 43 high schools and the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support. The Department is the largest employer (48%) of athletic trainers in the State of Hawaii. It would benefit by having its employees registered to practice the art and science of athletic training. The Department's Office of Human Resources only verifies that an employee has met the minimum qualifications; it doesn't monitor if an athletic trainer has lost or has had his/her certification revoked. The health and safety of our student athletes are of utmost importance therefore, the Department supports the creation of a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Status to register athletic trainers.

The Department would like to make the following recommendations to the definitions in the bill:

1. Expand the definition of "Athlete" (page 2, line 15) to include

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coaches, referees, and other athletic support staff. This definition which was proposed to the Legislature in 2007, ensures that any individual who participates in or serves an athletic program has access to the care and treatment provided by an athletic trainer.

2. Change "Directing Physician" (page 3, line 9, page 5, line 12) to "Treating Physician" to encompass an athlete's primary care physician, as the Department's high school athletic programs do not have a staff physician to provide clinical support and direction to an athletic trainer. This definition may impact other provisions in the bill, as there is a collaborative, consultative relationship between the treating physician and an athletic trainer, rather than a supervisory relationship.