

**Date:** 02/04/2011

**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0622 Relating to Education

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to adopt rules to educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. Requires that coaches receive annual training to recognize symptoms of concussions and that youth athletes suspected of sustaining a concussion be kept from practice or competition until conditions are met.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) does not support HB 622, which requires the Department to adopt rules to educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. The Department has instituted a concussion management program which addresses or will address all items in this bill within a year. Concurrently, the Department is working with the University of Hawaii in conducting a concussion study with funding from the Department of Health's Neurotrauma Division. The scope of the study is more comprehensive than what HB 622 is requiring. It provides for baseline assessments, including symptom assessments, cognitive status assessments, and balance assessments. It provides for education of parents, athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and administrators regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. Most importantly it provides for standard of care for each concussed student athlete. The Department will annually review its concussion management

program and study to ensure the effectiveness of the program and the safety of its student athletes. The need for the attention to concussions and head injuries, as outlined in this bill, will be substantiated by the outcomes realized by the concussion management program and the data from the study.



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**Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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**TESTIMONY: HB 622, RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2011

9:00 am

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chairman Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Health. Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports for this measure.

Our island youth engage in many athletic and sports activities which can and do lead to head injuries and possible concussions. It is critical for the health and wellbeing of our youth (and adults) that those entrusted with the health and wellbeing of our youth and adults playing such sports and athletic activities be fully trained in recognizing traumatic brain injury including concussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong supportive testimony for this important measure.

Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Regarding HB 622 Relating to Education  
Hearing on February 4, 2011

To Chair Ryan Yamane and members of the House Education Committee,

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association opposes HB 622. We feel it's unnecessary, as the Department of Education has already implemented a concussion management plan that exceeds this bill.

The DOE has already put into place an education program for coaches, parents, and student athletes. All student athletes and their parents are required to attend an educational session prior to participating in athletics regarding concussion management and the risks of athletics. They are already required to acknowledge that they understand and agree to the DOE policies. They developed an action plan for assessing, monitoring, and reassessing concussed athletes. They have a written return to play protocol which is given to all student athletes and their parents and this protocol is far more stringent than what is required in HB 622.

The National Federation of High Schools has inserted into the rule books of all sanctioned interscholastic sports language that states "any player who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion must be removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional."

Additionally it is expected that Federal legislation regarding concussion management will be passed in the upcoming congressional legislative session and would most likely supersede any state acts.

We applaud the intent of this bill but do not feel it is necessary as all the components are already in place. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Darryl Funai  
representing the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association

## H.B. 622, Youth Sports; Head Injuries

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) opposes this bill. The HATA in conjunction with Department of Education's Athletic Training program and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory committee has developed a concussion management program for Hawaii's high school student athletes. The HATA and the Department of Health's (DOH) Neurotrauma Division co-sponsored a Concussion Awareness Symposium last June, which addressed all components of this bill plus a detailed return to activity plan. The return to activity plan is the most critical piece of the concussion management plan, as demonstrated in other states which have similar laws. For instance, in the state of Washington an athlete was released back to participation by his physician and two days later suffered another concussion which caused Second Impact Syndrome. Another component of a comprehensive concussion management program is having baseline assessments of all contact sport athletes. These baseline assessments include: Graded Symptom Check list; Cognitive status assessments such as Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment (ImPACT) or Standard Assessment of Concussion (SAC); and Postural Stability assessments. Having objective baseline assessments like these enables the athletic trainer and physician to compare pre and post concussion signs, symptoms and cognitive function.

The DOH, Neurotrauma Division has provided the University of Hawaii with a grant to conduct a concussion management study in the DOE. This grant includes funds to provide baseline and post concussion assessments for over 7,000 student athletes in contact sports. It provides for the manpower and materials to conduct these assessments throughout the entire state. Through this grant the DOE and University will be able to determine the effectiveness of the concussion management program.

In the fall of 2010, The National Federation of State High School Associations instituted rules for concussion athletes, and provided a web based concussion training for coaches. The HHSAA will mandate this concussion training for coaches for next school year.

The HATA would suggest deferring this bill until the University of Hawaii completes its concussion study to provide the effectiveness of the concussion management plan and the cost to manage such a program.



## Hawaii High School Athletic Association

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Testimony of Jennifer King, D.O. on behalf of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

In Opposition of HB622; Youth Sports Head Injuries  
Before the House of Representatives Twenty-Sixth Legislature, 2011 State of Hawai'i

The Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee does not support HB622 as written. Currently the Department of Education's Athletic Training program has a concussion management protocol. This protocol already addresses all the regulations that are listed in HB 622 with an additional piece that delineates a return to play progression. The return to play progression is an important factor regarding appropriate concussion management and the current recommendation of head injury experts. The DOE has also partnered with the Department of Health, Neurotrauma Division to conduct a concussion management study, which is currently in progress. This grant provides funding that allows for baseline studies (computerized neurocognitive testing utilizing ImPact software, Standardized Assessment of Concussion, and Balance Error Scoring System) to be done on over 7000 high school athletes that participate in sports that have high risk for head injuries. The baseline testing is a valuable tool in the assessment of a concussed athlete in determining timing of safe return to play. With regard to the annual training for the coaches, Hawai'i High School Athletic Association is proposing to mandate concussion training for coaches for the next academic year utilizing the National Federation of State High School Association's web based training for coaches.

The Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee would propose to defer the bill until the concussion management study is complete to have an educated estimate of the financial cost of this program.

February 3, 2011

Dear Legislators,

According to HB 622, your peers want to propose a bill in regards to head injuries and concussion management in the high school setting. For the past 2 years, representatives from each island/league has worked with the HHSAA, HATA and various physicians in our community to come up with the current **State of Hawaii Department of Education Concussion Management Program** that we as Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC) or Athletic Health Care Trainers (AHCT) are implementing across the state. Current funding from the Department of Health has helped to implement programs that you want to employ in the near future. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have already implemented the no return to play if symptomatic or exhibiting signs and symptoms of a head injury/concussion. They also provide a free online course to coaches, educating them on head injuries and concussions.

As a practicing athletic trainer, what we are already doing with a sports medicine committee is what you want to achieve. We have the current program that already provides a step wise return to play for each concussed athlete. Your proactive approach has already put at least ONE certified athletic trainer in each public high school, and another (2) in most major high schools. I believe that state of Hawaii is a leader in secondary school sports medicine because of this. Because of our current steps to be universal in our concussion management program, from private high schools, to public high school, I strongly urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Pagdilao ATC  
Certified Athletic Trainer  
Maui High School