

LATE TESTIMONY

Thursday, February 03, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of Bill HB 622 Head Injuries and Concussion in Youth Sports. Currently, I reside in Molokai and work for Molokai High School, Athletic Department, as the Athletic Health Care Trainer (AHCT). In summary, I am responsible for prevention of; recognition and immediate care of; and rehabilitation and reconditioning of athletic injuries for high school student-athletes. The recent training and implementation of the Concussion Management Program (CMP) in the Department of Education (DOE) among AHCTs has and continues to be a vital assessment instrument in the education of; recognition and immediate care of; and return to play of head injuries and concussions in high school athletics. This program is an effort to education, recognize and manage head injuries and concussion in high school sports, which continue to occur with increased incidence annually. Also the CMP provides for consistency and coordinated care of high school athletes in the DOE, and hopefully statewide.

I am the only AHCT on Molokai with no team physician. In addition, the CMP has provided me with recent developments and research in the area of head injuries and concussions. Thus I have had telephone and in-person discussions with at least two physicians, at Molokai General Hospital's Emergency Room, praising the use of these assessments. I attest for utilization of the CMP as it has been instrumental in the managing of several head injuries and concussions at our high school. As an allied health professional the CMP has enabled me to provide awareness and education about these injuries to our parents, coaches, and athletic director.

I ask for your consideration and acceptance of Bill HB 622 to promote the care needed for high school athletes in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

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LATE TESTIMONY

H.B. 622, Youth Sports; Head Injuries

Representative Yamane,

Representing the athletic training staff at President William McKinley High School, we are opposed to the measures proposed in HB 622. Through measures already enacted by the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association and the Department of Education's Athletic Training Program, a comprehensive concussion management protocol is currently in place. The efficacy of this program is currently under review through grant funds provided to the University of Hawaii by the Department of Health's Neurotrauma Division. The goal of such research is to evaluate the most appropriate means of conducting neurocognitive/psychological baseline testing for student-athletes, sufficient return-to-play guidelines, and most effective means of providing public education on proper concussion management in the State of Hawaii.

Additionally, the current legislation proposed in HB 622 is limited to football athletes alone. Concussion injuries are not limited to football athletes alone, but can occur in any sport. To ensure that athletes of all sports are protected equally more comprehensive legislation should be implemented.

HB 622, page 2, line 11 mentions that a concussed athlete requires "a medical release from a health care professional." We feel that a definition of a health care professional in this bill needs to be clearly explained; we believe that any health care professionals who deal with concussed athletes have to be properly trained for and obtain the knowledge of the management of sport concussion.

It is therefore our opinion that the legislation proposed in HB 622 falls short of the standards that should be implemented for student-athletes in the State of Hawaii. The research currently being conducted by the Department of Education's Concussion Management Team, which is supported by the Department of Health, University of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association would provide the data and information necessary to propose more appropriate concussion management measures in regards to the funding necessary to undertake such an endeavor, as well as the most current and effective protocols for baseline testing and return-to-play measures.

From: Danielle Bass on behalf of Rep. Ryan Yamane
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 3:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: SB 1373, HB 1215, HB 622

From: Neal_Takamori/MCKINLEY/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Neal_Takamori/MCKINLEY/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Ryan Yamane; Ross_Oshiro/SSS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us; tomoki_kanaoka@notes.k12.hi.us; Leanna Fortner
Subject: SB 1373, HB 1215, HB 622

Representative Yamane,

My name is Neal Takamori, Athletic Director at McKinley High School and President of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association of Hawaii (ADCA).

I have just word that the above bills concern concussion management. **ADCA feels that the bills are not necessary** because of the following reasons.

1. The Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) in conjunction with Department of Education's Athletic Training program and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) has developed a concussion management program for Hawaii's high school student athletes.
2. We are currently working with the Department of Health's (DOH) Neurotrauma Division which addressed all components of this bill plus a detailed return to activity plan.
3. For example, McKinley High School has been utilizing a concussion management program (Impact Program) for three years targeting all athletes. We feel this bill is unnecessary.
4. The athletic trainers in the State of Hawaii are very pro active and have been working on a concussion management program for several years.
5. The athletic trainers target all athletes, not just football players as the bill specifies.
6. The bill mentions the "Impact" program. The athletic trainers are evaluating and researching various concussion management programs that might be better for Hawaii's athletes.
7. HB 1215 addresses funding for a concussion management program and we are in support of funding if the above are addressed.
8. The athletic trainers in Hawaii work with physicians to enable an athlete to return to play. Coaches do not make the final determination of a student returning to play.

LATE TESTIMONY

H.B 622 Youth Sports; Head Injuries

My name is Richard Keith Burgess and as a Certified Athletic Trainer I oppose this bill. Department of Education Athletic Training Program has implemented a comprehensive concussion management program for the high school athlete. The management program includes an education component, baseline testing, evaluation by a physician, and a return to play protocol.

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

Commonly used 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 gradual return to play protocol is a very critical piece of the management plan. Current treatment for concussion is very individualized and no two athletes are ever the same. Concussion symptoms may be absent at rest but return during exercise. The return to play protocol ensures that the athlete does not begin full participation until asymptomatic at various intensities of exercise.

The Department of Health, Neurotrauma division has provided the University of Hawaii with a grant to conduct a concussion management study with the Department of Education. This grant will provide manpower, resources and means to effectively conduct baseline concussion testing for Hawaii high school athletes that are involved in contact sports.

I'm suggesting that at this time the HB622 be deferred until the University of Hawaii completes its study to determine the effectiveness of the concussion management program.

Sincerely, Richard Keith Burgess

LATE TESTIMONY

**STATE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEBRUARY 4, 2011, 9:00 am
STATE CAPITOL, CONF. RM. 329**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 622, RELATING TO EDUCATION**

CHAIR RYAN YAMANE, VICE CHAIR DEE MORIKAWA, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

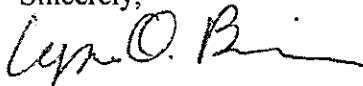
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 622, which requires the Department of Education to adopt rules to educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. It further requires that coaches receive annual training to recognize symptoms of concussions to keep youth athletes suspected of sustaining a concussion from practice or competition until conditions are met.

My name is Lyna Burian, and my son sustained a brain injury eighteen years ago. Since then, I have met a number of people who have had concussions or mild head injuries from sports related accidents. Head injury can change the life of the individual completely. Depending on what part of the brain gets injured, the individual may suffer physical, cognitive or behavioral problems.

According to statistics gathered by the Brain Injury Association of America, 1.4 million people sustain a brain injury in the United States each year. This includes traumatic brain injuries and mild head injuries. Direct medical costs and indirect costs, such as lost productivity from the injury, totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the U.S. in 2008. Awareness and education can make a big difference. A trained individual can recognize the symptoms of concussions and mild head injuries, and help prevent the person from sustaining another head injury.

HB 622 will help educate and bring awareness to coaches, athletes and parents/guardians. I urge you to pass this bill. It will help our young athletes to stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Lyna O. Burian
1515 Nuuanu Avenue, #40
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817