

Testimony of Cindy Clivio on behalf of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers in **support HB2273**

February 27, 2012

To: Chair Marcus Oshiro and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Cindy Clivio and I am testifying for the members of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers (HATA) in **support of hb2273**

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) is the professional membership association for Certified Athletic Trainers in our state. Certified Athletic Trainers are health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses of athletes participating in various athletic events in Hawaii. Athletic Trainers are employed in all Hawaii's public schools, some private schools, colleges, Universities, hospitals, physician offices, clinics, and by the military.

Over the past few years over 30 states have enacted concussion legislation. Most have been modeled after the state of Washington's Zachary Lystedt law which was the first such law enacted in 2009. The Lystedt law was created after a middle school interscholastic football player sustained a concussion which was not recognized and continued to play. He suffered a catastrophic traumatic brain injury and although he survived he has been left with permanent disability and decreased mental capacity. After his injury the first question asked was why he was allowed to continue to play. The answer was that coaches, parents and students themselves are not trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions and in his case

there were no medical personnel trained in the management of concussion on site. At the time of his injury, at his school there were no doctors, no ambulance, no athletic trainers to provide appropriate medical care. Hawaii is unique and is well known as a leader in athletic health care. We are the only state that provides Certified Athletic Trainers in all of its public schools. The Hawaii Department of Education has created and successfully implemented a concussion management plan that greatly exceeds the requirements of any of the 30+ state laws. In cooperation with the State Department of Health the DOE is gathering head injury epidemiology data. Unfortunately not all schools have the same standards. While many private schools employ athletic trainers and many follow the same protocol, not all do. This bill would require that all member schools of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association create a concussion awareness plan and the hope is that eventually all leagues and schools would follow the similar policies.

As the DOE has implemented its policy, athletic trainers found that there is a lack of understanding of the serious risks associated with head injuries and there remains a culture in athletics where student athletes feel they need to “tough it out” and many athletes are reluctant to report symptoms. The proper management of concussions requires that those injured have a period of cognitive rest. School staff including counselors, teachers, and administrators need to have a greater understanding of the importance of a gradual return to school and academic activities. Teachers need to become part of the team that helps evaluate when students are able to resume full activity. Educating students, parents, coaches and school personnel is the critical element in hoping to provide meaningful change.

We would like to note that traumatic brain injuries including concussions are not only an athletics issue. These injuries are happening on playgrounds, at skate parks, in the ocean and during elementary recess and youth sports. Providing educational awareness at the interscholastic athletics level is a first step and ideally an educational program needs to be developed and implemented to elementary level and to youth leagues. We would suggest that when the economy improves and funding could become available that the legislature consider a more expansive program that would provide education for all school aged students, their parents and youth leagues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Monday, February 27, 2012

2:00 P.M.

Conference Room 308

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Roger Kimura, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 2273

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Association strongly supports this measure.

The Hawaii Medical Association stands in strong support of the need for the state of Hawaii to develop guidelines for the management of student athletic concussive events. While many of our student athletes may appear physically mature, the human brain lags in development, continuing to develop well into a person's 20's. It is estimated that over 40,000 youth concussions occur annually, and over 40% of high school athletes return to action prematurely. Concussions account for nearly 10% of sport injuries, and are the second leading cause of brain injury for young people ages 15-24. Injuries of this type to the brain can be permanent, and are cumulative in effect.

The HMA favors the development of a concussion management program based on established evidence-based criteria, such as those developed by the American Academy of Neurology, the Colorado Medical Society, or the Cantu guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

OFFICERS

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - MORRIS MITSUNAGA, MD, SECRETARY - THOMAS KOSASA, MD, TREASURER -
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HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 27, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 2273 – Relating to Concussions

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2273, which requires the Department of Education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program for public and private schools.

According to the Hawaii Department of Education, concussions represent up to 8 percent of all injuries per year. HMSA believes that the best way to prevent episodes of brain injury is through education, and has participated in events such as our Kaimana Coaches clinic to educate coaches on symptoms of and injuries associated with concussions. We also believe that requiring a licensed health care provider to determine when a student may return to play is necessary to prevent further injury.

We believe that HB 2273 would help to promote the safety and well-being of all student athletes in Hawaii in regards to the dangers of concussions. We ask that you consider passing HB 2273. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Oto".

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

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We believe that HB 2273 would help to promote the safety and well-being of all student athletes in Hawaii in regards to the dangers of concussions. We ask that you consider passing HB 2273. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations



House Finance Committee
February 27, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Room 308

RE: HB 2273, RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS

Good afternoon, Chair Yamane, Vice- Chair Morikawa and members of the Health Committee. On behalf of the Hawaii Chapter, American Physical Therapy Association ("HAPTA"), we are in **support** of HB 2273, relating to concussions and ask that you please make an amendment to include physical therapists in the definition of Licensed health Care Professional.

This measure requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

We believe that this measure is an important step toward ensuring that the risk of serious injuries is lessened. We do request that you **amend this bill to** include physical therapists in the definition of Licensed health Care Professional in the bill, as physical therapists provide care to people who are suffering short and long-term effects of concussions including vertigo, and balance and coordination problems as well as cognitive problems.

HAPTA is a non-profit professional organization serving more than 250 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our mission is to be the principal membership organization that represents and promotes the profession of Physical Therapy in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Ann Frost, P.T.
Legislative Committee Chair