



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

**LATE TESTIMONY**

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

Written Testimony Only

Committee on Finance

HB 2273, Relating to Concussions

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.

Director of Health

February 27, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports H.B. 2273, Relating to Concussions, and  
defers to the Department of Education for any fiscal implications.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** H.B. 2273 is requiring the DOE and HHSAA to develop a concussion  
5 awareness program and to provide guidelines to public and private schools. As of October 2011, there  
6 are 31 states (plus the District of Columbia and the city of Chicago) that have adopted youth concussion  
laws. This bill contains the main principles of the Lystedt Law model legislation enacted in Colorado  
8 and supported by the NFL. Passage of H.B. 2273 will be a major step for Hawaii to enact a statute that  
9 will promote education on concussion and implement return to play guidelines targeted at minimizing  
10 the risk of Second-Impact Syndrome, resulting from a student athlete returning to play while still  
11 experiencing symptoms of a concussion and suffering another concussion. The result of Second-  
12 Impact Syndrome can be devastating and lead to life-long disabilities.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



SAFE KIDS Hawaii

February 27, 2012

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn Lee., Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Susan LaFontaine, KIPC Co-Chair  
Manager, Rehabilitation Department  
Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

RE: **HB2273, Relating To Concussions**

Honorable Representative Oshiro, Representative Lee and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) represents more than forty agencies and individuals who are committed to the protection of the children of Hawai'i from preventable injuries. **KIPC strongly supports HB2273**, which will require the DOE and the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association to develop an educational program for students and student athletes that addresses the prevention, recognition, and management of concussion or mild traumatic brain injury.

Training in concussion awareness is essential for all persons who are involved with youth sports and activities that place children at risk for biomechanical forces that may result in brain injury. Recognizing and responding properly to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or event death. Because the results of these injuries are cumulative, it is essential that they be prevented at the youth level. While promoting physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle is important; it is equally important to provide education on what constitutes safe play.

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

Date: 02/27/2012

Committee: House Finance

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2273 hscr301-12) Relating to Concussions

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports HB 2273 (hscr301-12) and a continued partnership with the Hawaii High School Athletic Association in the development of educational programs and guidelines regarding concussion awareness for public and private schools. In implementing its Concussion Management Program (CMP), the Department has acknowledged the need for awareness education for students, parents, school staff, sports officials and schools administrators regarding the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the procedures that need to be followed. The Department's CMP addresses the concussion assessments and education of athletic trainers, and coaches to ensure student athletes return to play safely.

A partnership with the University of Hawaii's Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science Department and the Department of Health (DOH) Neurotrauma Division assists the Department in providing our student athletes with baseline testing and follow-up testing for cognitive and postural stability. Through this partnership the Department has been able to identify concussed student athletes and returned them to participation safely, with a standardized return-to-activity plan. The next steps for this partnership is to develop a comprehensive educational program about the signs, symptoms and early intervention, particularly for students athletes and parents, but also for sports officials, school staff, and school administrators. Through other ongoing partnerships with the DOH, Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) and Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) we will to able to develop an educational program to fit all of our schools, from small private schools to large public schools. This type of partnership has already allowed us to provide concussion coaches clinics (6) on all islands over the last

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nine months. This legislation will allow the Department to focus its efforts on education/awareness of concussions for all key role groups. The Department supports the partnership with HHSAA and community agencies to ensure the safety and well-being for all of Hawaii's student athletes.