



Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 29, 2012  
9:00 a.m.  
Room 211

**RE: HB 2273, RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS**

Good afternoon, Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the 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. Both Iowa and Nevada enacted similar legislation in 2011 including physical therapists as part of the team of health care professionals involved with the care of people who sustain concussions.

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

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