

Testimony of Cindy Clivio on behalf of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers in **support HB 2273**

March 29, 2012

To: Chairs David Ige and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 continues to support the effort to enact legislation requiring Hawaii high schools to provide a concussion educational awareness plan for coaches, athletic trainers, students, parents, and school staff for all of the reasons offered in earlier hearings testimony

This is the companion bill of SB 2538 that your committee passed with amendments suggested by the Legislative Reference Bureau. We do not oppose any of those earlier technical amendments but we believe there may have been an inadvertent error which could have unintended consequences. If the Ways and Means Committee were to use the same language as in the previous SB 2538 SD1 in section 3 (5) the wording was

5) The monitoring of a student's return to physical activity by a certified athletic trainer employed by the school, 5) The monitoring of a student's return to physical activity by a certified athletic trainer employed by the school, based upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence, such as that from the National Athletic Trainer Association or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Elsewhere in all versions of this bill the language is

5) The monitoring of a student's return to physical activity by a certified athletic trainer, if an athletic trainer is employed by the school...

The wording in the previous SB 2538 SD1 may imply that all schools would be required to hire a certified athletic trainer to monitor return. While most Hawaii Schools employ athletic trainers not all private schools do so, thus we would suggest that the language in this section remain with the additional clause of “if an athletic trainer is employed by the school”.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SAFE KIDS Hawaii

March 29, 2012

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Ways and Means Committee

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

RE: **HB2273, Relating To Concussions**

Honorable Senator Ige Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

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.