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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Judiciary

HB 2276, RELATING TO SKATEBOARDS

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

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 2:00PM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports HB2276. A skateboard helmet law is an
2 effective means of increasing helmet use, and preventing and reducing the severity of head injury in
3 skateboard crashes.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** We commend the legislature for hearing this bill, which would reduce head
6 injuries to children and youth. Unhelmeted skateboarders of all ages are at increased risk for head
7 injury. Head injuries can produce consequences, which are disabling, long lasting and extremely costly.
8 Safety helmets are the single most effective means of preventing and reducing the severity of head
9 injuries in skateboard crashes.

10 Each year in Hawaii about 450 children under 16 years of age are treated in hospitals after falling
11 from skateboards. That is nearly equal to the number who are injured from bicycle (510) or car crashes
12 (470), and more than the number who are injured from assaults (350), or motorcycle (155) or pedestrian
13 crashes (145). Hawaii injury-related data reflect that only a small percentage of children and youth
14 under the age of 16 are wearing helmets. According to EMS records from 2006-2008, less than 10% of
15 skateboard riders under the age of 16 who were injured skateboarding were wearing a helmet.

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 Moreover, unhelmeted skateboard riders under age 16 are more likely to suffer a head injury. Based on
2 data from the Queen's Trauma Registry from the 5-year period (2006-2010), nearly 40% (47) of the 119
3 patients who were injured while skateboarding were under 16 years of age. Nearly three-quarters (74%,
4 or 35) of the patients in this age group who suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI), were skateboarding
5 without a helmet.

6 Patients under 16 years of age account for 74% percent (2218) of the total patients (4416)
7 patients treated in hospital for injuries from skateboarding, and the associated medical costs averaging
8 almost \$903,000 per year for this age group is staggering. This helmet bill, if enacted, promoted and
9 enforced, could substantially reduce the occurrence of head injuries and the associated medical costs
10 among skateboarders under the age of 16. Since children under the age of 16 account for about half of
11 all the skateboard related injuries in Hawaii, this bill could protect many young skateboarders from brain
12 injuries and enable them to live to their full potential.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



February 23, 2012 2:00 pm

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Subject: Support for HB 2276

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee strongly supports HB 2276 which requires any person under the age of sixteen to wear a helmet while operating a skateboard. Requiring helmets will help reduce traumatic brain injuries among skateboarders in Hawaii.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injury in Hawai'i. IPAC members include public and private agencies, physicians, and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury.

Each year in Hawaii, 882 individuals are treated in hospitals for skateboard related injuries. Of those, 450 are under 16 years of age, which is nearly equal to the number who are injured from bicycle (510) or car crashes (470) and more than the number who are injured from assaults (350) or motorcycle (155) or pedestrian crashes (145).

There were 119 patients in the Queen's Trauma Registry who were injured while skateboarding over the 5-year period of 2006-2010. Nearly 40% (47) of the patients were under 16 years of age, including 27% (32) who were 13 to 15 years old. Less than 9% (4) of the patients under 16 years of age were wearing a helmet at the time of their injury, close to the percentage for patients 16 and older (7%). Nearly three-quarters (74%, or 35) of the younger patients suffered a traumatic brain injury. None of the 4 children who were wearing helmets had a skull fracture, compared to nearly half of the unhelmeted children (44%, or 19 of 43). The costs of treating injured skateboarders are staggering, with the annual average of charges totaling \$11.3 million.

Helmet use is a best practice for injury prevention. Increasing helmet use among skateboarders would reduce head injuries among our youth in Hawaii. We strongly support the passage of HB 2276.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Bruce McEwan, Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

**Hawaii Partners**

*Rehabilitation
Hospital of the
Pacific
*The Queen's Medical
Center Neuroscience
Institute and
Trauma Program
*City and County of
Honolulu Ocean
Safety
*KIPC/SAFE KIDS
Hawaii
*IPCP, Hawaii
Department of
Health
*Hawaii Department
of Education
*Neurotrauma
Supports, Hawaii
Department of
Health
*City and County of
Honolulu EMS
*Honolulu Police
Department
*Hawaiian Lifeguard
Association

February 23, 2012 2:00 pm

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Subject: Support for HB 2276

ThinkFirst Hawaii strongly supports HB 2276 requiring the use of a properly fitted and fastened skate helmet for persons under the age of sixteen while operating a skateboard.

ThinkFirst is a nationally recognized injury prevention program whose mission is to lead injury prevention through education, research and policy. The program curriculum is specifically designed for children and youth to foster safe behaviors, such as wearing skateboard helmets, to prevent brain and spinal cord injury. Since 2000, the Hawaii Chapter with its collaboration of community partners has continued to educate and advocate for injury prevention efforts statewide.

Helmet use is a best practice for injury prevention and will help reduce traumatic brain injuries. We strongly support the passage of HB 2276.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elzy Kaina".

Elzy Kaina
Chapter Director
ThinkFirst Hawaii

HB 2276

HB 2276

Cathy Tsaour [cathytsaur@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 10:41 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Please pass HB2276. Children are currently required to wear helmets when they ride a bike or a motorcycle, they should also wear a helmet when they ride a bike. Injuries affecting the head or neck are most common among teens and young adults and their rate of injury is two to three times greater than for any other age group. We should follow other states like New Mexico because in 2007, New Mexico began enforcing the Child Helmet Safety Act, which requires those under age 18 to wear helmets when riding bicycles, skateboards, scooters, skates and tricycles. A study by the New Mexico Office of Injury Prevention that compared child helmet use rates before and one year after the law passed showed that overall observed helmet use increased by nearly 10 percent, from 12.2 percent to 21.7 percent. Children who skateboard downhill can reach dangerous speeds. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

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The One & Only
Cathy



SALVADOR B. CECILIO, M.D. INC

BOARD CERTIFIED IN ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

302 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, SUITE 202, WAHIAWA, HAWAII, 96786

Tel: 808-622-2674

Fax: 808-622-1808

February 23, 2012

**The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair**

House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2276

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

As an orthopedic surgeon I **strongly support HB 2276** which requires any person under the age of sixteen to wear a helmet while operating a skateboard. Requiring helmets will help reduce orthopedic injuries among skateboarders in Hawaii.

The Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics released the following statement: "Skateboarding is an activity in which you move quickly over hard surfaces. It can lead to injuries that range from minor cuts and bruises to catastrophic brain injury. Each year in the United States, skateboarding injuries cause about 50,000 visits to emergency departments and 1500 children and adolescents to be hospitalized. (Source: AAP, March 2002.)

Sixty percent of skateboard injuries involve children under the age of 15. Skateboarders who do not wear protective equipment attribute to the cause of critical cases. Studies have shown that when young children who are involved in skateboarding accidents are often severely injured. Children who skateboard are especially at risk due to a higher center of gravity, less coordination, and by underestimating their skills and abilities which control the speed of the skateboard. (Source: AAP)

I strongly support HB2276 – Relating to Skateboards. HB2276 will reduce the amount of injuries from skateboard accidents to minors in our state. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Salvador B. Cecilio, MD

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:10 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: corietanida@gmail.com

Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2276

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Corie Tanida

Organization: Individual

E-mail: corietanida@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

I support HB2276, Relating to Skateboards because I think that kids should be required to wear helmets when skateboarding. I live in Salt Lake and I often see kids riding their skateboards on hills, on the roads, but without any protective gear. Last year a boy was seriously injured when he was riding a skateboard in our neighborhood and he might have had a different result if he was wearing a helmet. Hopefully this bill will make kids and parents more aware of the risks of riding skateboards.

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:03 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: info@sotoacademy.org

Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2276

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Rose Ann Nakamoto

Organization: Soto Academy

E-mail: info@sotoacademy.org

Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

We strongly support HB2276, because we believe that children need to be required to wear helmets when skateboarding. Last year we were deeply saddened to hear that one of our former students died from injuries incurred while skateboarding. We all felt such a big loss. If there was such a law at that time this would probably not have happened. We need to protect our children! This bill will make children and their parents more aware of the risks involved in skateboarding. Please pass bill HB2276 and help us save our children from preventable injuries/deaths.

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:07 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: buzz1@bmtillinois.net

Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2276

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: george eibel

Organization: Individual

E-mail: buzz1@bmtillinois.net

Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

to many head injuries in Hawaii

Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chairman of Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: HB 2276

This bill is a necessity to save lives in Hawaii. This bill will make it safer for people who enjoy engaged in this activity, and especially for the younger people.

Please pass HB 2276. We must protect the prospective future leaders of Hawaii.

Thank you for your diligent service to the people of Hawaii and to the visitors to Hawaii. We appreciate your fine work and leadership qualities.

Sincerely,
Darin M. Kurashige
2934 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822
2-22-12

February 22, 2012

Hi my name is Kathleen K. Steinhoff I live West Loch Estates in Ewa Beach.

I am in favor & strongly approve of House Bill HB2276.

My son **Kameron S.L. Steinhoff** was killed on May 17, 2011 as he did not have a Helmet On while riding a skateboard. My Son was not a skateboard rider, he was just Having fun with his friends, it hurts everyday not seeing Kameron.

I also lost my cousin Mark 4 years ago the same way in which could be prevented I

Want people out there to protect themselves by wearing helmets so they can ride safe.

I appreciate all that you are doing to help others be safe while riding, skateboards,

Scooters, mopeds, motorcycles etc.

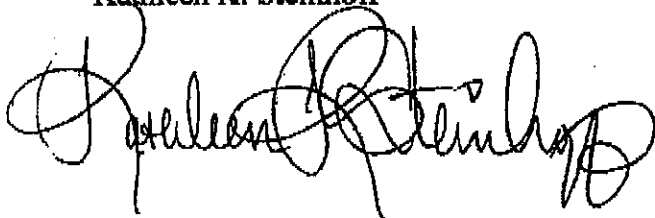
Is there is anyway that you could change the age limit to include college students because

I have read that it was up to the age 15 only right now. My son Kameron was 21 & my

Cousin Mark was 22.

Thank you very much,

Kathleen K. Steinhoff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen K. Steinhoff', written in a cursive style.

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2276 on 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:02 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: isyamada@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony for JUD 2/23/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2276

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Samuel & Irma Yamada

Organization: Individual

E-mail: isyamada@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/22/2012

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

We strongly SUPPORT HB 2276. We have tragically lost 2 young and vibrant relatives due to skateboarding accidents. TOGETHER let us safeguard our youth and educate them in preventive and safety measures. Thank you to the Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee for your continued concern for the health and welfare of our Keiki in Hawaii. Mahalo nui loa, Sam and Irma Yamada, retired educators and concerned citizens, Aiea, HI.