



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

Committee on Finance Testimony in Opposition To H.B. 774 Relating to State Funds

**Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in opposition to this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to suspend the current system of depositing into the neurotrauma special fund, surcharges from certain motor vehicle accidents, and to divert that money to the emergency medical services fund for a period of two years.

We strongly oppose this bill. When the current law (Act 160 SLH 2002) was passed, it was hailed as a landmark piece of legislation. The legislature recognized the nexus between automobile accidents and neurotrauma injuries, and established the neurotrauma special fund derived from these surcharges on court cases.

The legislature also recognized that there was a dearth of available services for individuals with the physical, cognitive and behavioral consequences of neurotrauma injuries. HDRC has represented a number of individuals with neurotrauma injuries and have seen firsthand their dire need for services. Many of these individuals fall into a gap group for which no programs are provided. This is particularly so for those individuals with acquired or traumatic brain injuries. In most cases they do not qualify for services from the Developmental Disabilities Division nor from the Adult Mental Health Division

of the Department of Health. They are truly the "gap group." While the Quest Expanded Access program has encompassed some of these individuals, there are still a great many unmet needs.

Pursuant to law, the Department of Health has established a Neurotrauma Advisory Board which provides input to the Department on expenditures from the fund. Many worthwhile projects are funded in accordance therewith. While we take no position in the need for funding emergency medical services, it is completely inappropriate to defund the Neurotrauma Special Fund for two years as a source of revenue. Funding for the those programs should be allocated by the legislature from either the general fund or some other source that may be appropriate. This fund needs to be utilized for its intended purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this measure.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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

Tuesday February 15, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In Strong Opposition to HB 774, Relating to Special Funds

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee.

My name is Dr. Cherylee Chang, Neurointensivist, and Medical Director of the Neuroscience Institute at The Queen's Medical Center. I am testifying for The Queen's Medical Center in strong opposition to HB 774 which diverts monies away from the Neurotrauma Special Fund. Included with this testimony is a petition of health care professionals who share my concern that loss of funding will negatively impact important brain and spinal cord injury prevention efforts, with particular impact to children.

The Neurotrauma Special Fund was established in 2002 by Act 160 for funding and contracting for services relating to neurotrauma. Funds are acquired through surcharges on traffic citations related to causes of neurotrauma injuries (speeding, drunk driving, not wearing seat belts, leaving the scene of an accident involving bodily injury). The Department of Health has worked with neurotrauma survivors and their families to identify priorities for expenditure of monies in the special fund and established a Neurotrauma Advisory Board "to develop, lead, administer, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and set direction for a comprehensive system to support and provide services for survivors of neurotrauma injuries."

HB 774 intends to divert funds to the Emergency Medical Services (who also oppose this bill). Most importantly, loss of neurotrauma funds will hamper efforts to reduce the incidence of brain injury in our State. We have three specific areas of concern:

- 1) **Loss of a proposed contract with ThinkFirst Hawaii** who provides brain and spinal cord injury prevention education to low-income children and youth across the state through school-based and public education efforts. ThinkFirst is a national program with local chapters that educate young people about their personal vulnerability and the importance of making safe choices about seat belt safety, helmet education and water safety. At Queen's, we care for children who have suffered traumatic brain injuries, and the impact on the victim and the family can be devastating. It is even more heart-wrenching when they are preventable injuries. A ThinkFirst project to reach out to areas such as Waianae and Kapaemahu that have the highest prevalence of traumatic injuries in school aged children (2000 Queen's Medical Center Trauma Registry) would be impacted. The goal is to

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prevent the injury before it occurs. This bill would jeopardize valuable prevention education.

2) The bill would also **divert funds from the Hawaii Department of Education's Concussion Management Program**, which works with the DOE and private high school athletic departments to conduct baseline assessments of athletes using the ImPACT concussion software. This program educates athletic directors, coaches, school personnel, and parents on the importance of ImPACT results for monitoring concussions and develops a protocol to assess the athlete after concussion, putting into place "Return to Play" guidelines for schools. This program will also go a step further and connect with neuropsychologists and primary care physicians on the importance of the concussion results and interpreting the ImPACT post test for student athletes. Diversion of funds will jeopardize this project.

3) Other important projects that this bill would jeopardize funding for include:

- **The Hawaiian Islands Regional Stroke Network**, which would increase public education about the recognition of stroke symptoms and the need to call 911. This project would also increase patient access to expert stroke consultation through the establishment of a telemedicine-based regional stroke network.
- **The Ho'oiikaika Peer Mentoring Project** which helps individuals with traumatic brain injury find and use support services.
- **The Brain Injury Association of Hawaii** which sponsors education and support groups for traumatic brain injury survivors.

These neurotrauma funds are important and necessary to prevent injury in our State. The best health care starts with prevention. We urge you to defer this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Literature cited:

1. State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Report to the Twenty-fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii. Pursant to Chapter 321H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring the Department of Health to Provide an Annual Report on the Activities Under the Neurotrauma Special Fund. December 2009.
2. ThinkFirst Mission and History. <http://www.thinkfirst.org/About/>. Accessed February 4, 2011.
3. 2000 The Queen's Medical Center Trauma Registry

Subject: In Opposition of HB 774 and SB 120, Section 117, Relating to State Funds

The Queen's Medical Center strongly opposes HB 774 and SB 120, Section 117. We have attached a petition of individuals who are concerned that this bill that proposes to divert monies away from the Neurotrauma Special Fund will impact negatively on important state brain/spinal cord injury prevention, particularly to children.

PRINTED NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
Jackie Leonard	Administrative Secretary	Jackie Leonard
Joson Asou	Clinical Data Coord.	Joson Asou
Carol Cheslip	Accel Out-Op	STAFF NURSE
Jenelle Parisca	STAFF NURSE	Jenelle Parisca
Garrett Hamd	Pharmacy Student	Garrett Hamd
Fay Jung	ANP	Fay Jung
Sally L. Jones	Trauma Program mgr.	Sally L. Jones
Wendy Miyamoto	Clinical Database Coord.	Wendy Miyamoto
Lisa Nishikawa	Tr. Cl. DB coord	Lisa Nishikawa
Lara Speck	Injury Prevention + Research Coord.	Lara Speck
Shun man	MD	Shun man
Juliet Beniga	RN, Neuro ICU	Juliet Beniga
Sandra Talavera	RN NSICU	Sandra Talavera
Diana Oni	PA	Diana Oni
Vanb Boun	RN NSICU	Vanb Boun
Thelma Amuro	RN Tanex 5	Thelma Amuro
Gayle Hestler	Neuropsychologist, PhD	Gayle Hestler
Queenie Retuya	RN QET 5	Queenie Retuya
Lexi Ausmus	RN QET 5	Lexi Ausmus

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PRINTED NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
MICHAEL WEAVER	M.D	<i>Michael Weaver MD</i>
Rehna Dhan	RN	<i>Rehna Dhan</i>
MARTIN RAYNER	Ph.D.	<i>Martin Rayner</i>
ELFI SONTA	R.N.M.D.	<i>Elfi Sonta</i>
HAZEL BEH	Professor	<i>Hazel Beh</i>
Renee Lahmer	APRN	<i>Renee Lahmer</i>
R. C. W. W. W.	M.D	<i>R. C. W. W. W.</i>
B. Koo Kur	APRN	<i>B. Koo Kur</i>
Aurora Fuenhling	OMC RIRC member	<i>Aurora Fuenhling</i>
DAN CHOË	RN	<i>Dan Choë</i>
Sheri Tokumaru	Pharmacist	<i>Sheri Tokumaru</i>
MINI W	RN	<i>Mini W</i>
YO SILVA-DUAN	US	<i>Yo Silva-Duan</i>
Brian Nishiguchi	M.D.	<i>Brian Nishiguchi</i>
DIANE BRENESSEL	RRT	<i>Diane Brenessel</i>
Daphne D. Farnock	MO	<i>Daphne D. Farnock</i>
Joan Craft	RN	<i>Joan Craft</i>

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PRINTED NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
CARDENAS, FE	EEG TECH	
Breen, Loric	EEG Tech	
LARSEN, JAMES	PSYCHOMETRIC TECH	
PASQUA, NICO	Unit Secretary	
Wendy Tsutsumi	Occupational Therapist	
MARY JEAN UDARDE	RN	
Michael B Kim	RN	
Laudis Forman	Nurses Assistant	
Meliora Armas	RN	
Alice Blendey-Vibangco	RN	
Douglas Volant	MD	
Soma Fisher	RN	
Kathy Seribaku	RN	
Aleli Dahigdig	RN	
Eliza Cachola	RN	
Etan Lee	RN	
Ting Harvell	RN	
Bernardino Mando	MD	
Rose Magno	RN	
Brenda Ana	Clinical Operation Mgr	
Lyle Koskoff	PA	


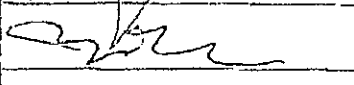
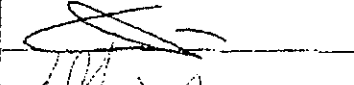
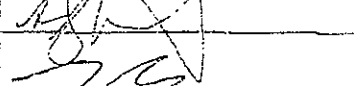
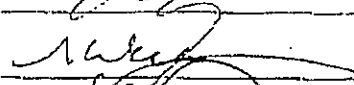
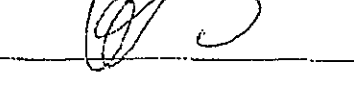

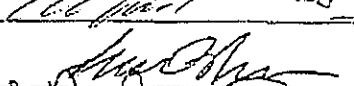
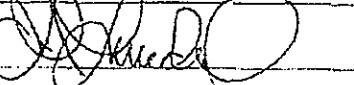
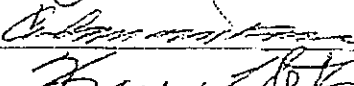
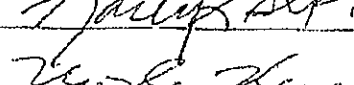
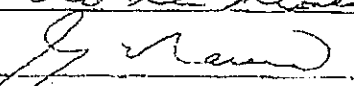
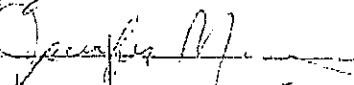
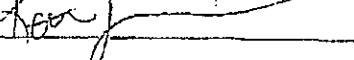




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GMC NEUROSCIENCE

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Subject: In Opposition of HB 774, Relating to State Funds

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PRINTED NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
LEON LIEM	Neurology	
Douglas Franz	Neuroscience	
Matthew Koenig, MD	neurology	
Alan Stein MD	Neurology	
ANDY SHIRLEY	ACNP	
Kazumi Nakagawa	Neurointensivist	
Geord Aleska MD	VP Medical Affairs	
William Wang	MG	
JON GRAHAM	NEUROSURGEON	
MAURICE MICHAELSON	NEURO SURGEON	
Eric Oshiro	Neurosurgeon	
Sandra Sandovud	ACNP Neuroscience PHYSICIAN	
Calvin Smith		
Karen Seth	Director, Neuroscience Inst.	
Michael Moore MD	MD	
AJ Mauro	MD	
Jennifer Moran	ACNP	
KATHY Johnson	Clinical Nurse Specialist	

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PRINTED NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
Diane Fowler	staff PT.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Wendy Johnston	staff OTR	<i>W. Johnston OTR</i>
BELINDA LEE	staff PT.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Glenn Nishimura	staff COTA	<i>G. Nishimura</i>
WINSTON MAZA	staff R.A.	<i>Winston Maza</i>
Matt Kwock	staff R.A.	<i>[Signature]</i>
JOAN MAULIOLA	STAFF P.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>
JUN SAGUIPED	STAFF R.A.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Ashley Thornton	staff OTR	<i>A Thornton</i>
Patrice Campbell	staff PT	<i>[Signature]</i>
Cherynn Mofeci	staff OTR	<i>Cherynn Mofeci</i>
ORLANDO DARR	staff PT	<i>[Signature]</i>
DAMI DYEDHI	staff P.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>
STACIE KATAHARA	P.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lisa Coins	P.T.	<i>Lisa Coins</i>
Frances Tomanum	OT	<i>Frances Tomanum</i>
Shanna Lau	P.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Diana Wendt	Speech-Language Pathologist	<i>Diana Wendt</i>
Kari Hayashi	O.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Julie Lee	D.P.T.	<i>[Signature]</i>

Christopher Chun
Hawaii High School Athletic Association
Executive Director
Ph. 808-587-4496
Email chun@hhsaa.org

The Hawaii High School Athletic Association is opposed to HB 774. Funding from the neurotrauma special fund has provided a grant to the University of Hawaii (UH). Through this grant, graduate students from the UH Kinesiology program are assisting the Department of Education athletic health care trainers (AHCT) program in conducting a concussion management study. This school year is the first of a possible five year study. This grant enables the DOE AHCT program to purchase laptop computers to conduct baseline and post concussion neurocognitive tests on student athletes (more than 7,000 annually) participating in contact sports. It also provides for the UH graduate assistants to conduct baseline postural stability test on these same student athletes. Without this grant the AHCTs would not have the time and resources to impliment the type of comprehensive concussion mangement program it currently is using. Ultimately, Hawaii's student athletes would be denied the care they are currently receiving from their AHCTs.

Written Testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers (HATA) H. B. No. 774

To: Chairman Marcus Oshiro and Members of the House Committees on Finance

My name is Cindy Clivio and I am providing written testimony for the members of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers (HATA) on SB 774. HATA does not take a position on this measure but would like to offer comments.

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. The University of Hawaii-Manoa offers a graduate entry level degree in Athletic Training. Athletic Trainers are employed in most of Hawaii's public schools, some private schools, colleges, Universities, hospitals, physician offices, clinics, and by the military. Hawaii is considered a leader in providing healthcare at the Secondary School level as the legislature provided funds to place a certified athletic trainer in all of Hawaii's public schools.

The Department of Education has begun the first of a three year grant program for the education, prevention, assessment, and determination of return to play criteria for concussion management in high school athletics. This program has a critical role in athlete safety. The funding is provided from the Neurotrauma special funds. HATA would like to ask that those funds which have been allocated from the Neurotrauma fund to the DOE concussion grant continue to be given to the DOE to continue this program in each of the next three years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the members of HATA.