



Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 28, 2012  
9:00 a.m.  
Room 211

**RE: SB 2538, RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS**

Good afternoon, Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Ways and Means Committee. On behalf of the Hawaii Chapter, American Physical Therapy Association ("HAPTA"), we are in support of the intent of SB 2538, relating to concussions and ask that you please make an amendment to include physical therapists in the list of licensed health care professionals who care for students with concussions or traumatic brain injuries.

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 include physical therapists in the definition of licensed health care professional in the bill, as we are often engaged in the treatment and care of injured athletes under the purview of this measure.

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

c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: February 27, 2012

To: Senator David Y Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N Kidani Vice Chair  
Members of the Ways And Means Committee

From: Anisia Paisley

Subject: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2538

Aloha, I am in full support of Senate Bill 2538. This bill requires the DOE to develop a concussion awareness plan for the Hawaii High School Athletic Association. According to American School Health Association, concussion incidences range as high as 3.8 million per year in either practice or play. This is a large amount of athletes, if we start an awareness plan we can bring this number down and prevent injuries.

If the concussion awareness plan was enforced athletes all around Hawaii could better prevent concussions. Thirty –two states and the District of Columbia have a concussion awareness plan, according to Safe Kids USA, and it has been helpful.

Thank you for taking your time to read my testimony. I hope for your support in SB2538.  
Mahalo.