

**From:** [Bruce McEwan](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on SB2827 SD1  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:24:59 AM  
**Importance:** High

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The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC), which works closely with the Injury Prevention and Control Section of the EMS Branch, strongly supports this bill. The valuable work done over the years by the dedicated professionals in the section is jeopardized if federal funding cuts go through. Since injury prevention is part of the comprehensive trauma system, it is in the best interest of the State to have the staff positions funded through the Trauma System Special Fund.

Bruce McEwan, Ph.D  
Chair-Injury Prevention Advisory Committee



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Comments in Support of SB 2827 SD1 RELATING TO THE TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND  
WAM Decision-Making 9am Rm 211 2/24/12  
Submitted by Chad Taniguchi, Executive Director, Hawaii Bicycling League

The Hawaii Bicycling League supports allowing the costs of staffing and operating the State's injury prevention program to be part of the trauma system special fund.

Prevention of even a small number of traumatic injuries will save the state more than the cost of staffing and operations. As in energy savings, it is more cost effective to find ways to reduce energy usage rather than finding more efficient ways to produce the same energy.

The State's injury prevention program provides data that the DOT, DOH, citizens and advocates use to understand the causes of injury and thereby find ways to help reduce such injuries. For example, the Hawaii Bicycling League proposed a DOT grant to teach drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists in the UH Manoa area how to coexist when using the roads of Hawaii. The educational project and location where selected because of data from the injury prevention program showing that those between 15-25 are at high risk for traffic injuries in the area from Kaimuki to downtown.

There are many other ways the injury prevention program informs the education and prevention programs in this state, such as showing what schools have high incidents of traffic crashes, suggesting that these areas should be targeted for remediation to alleviate the greatest needs and get the greatest bang for limited bucks.

In contrast to some other agencies which prefer that the public not have access to similar injury and crash information, the injury prevention program is a breath of fresh air and transparency that can help guide our actions to improve the future.

Supporting and protecting the injury prevention program through this means will lead to long term effectiveness and savings for the special fund as a whole.

*Ride Aloha! Drive Aloha!*

*Everyone has the right to be safe on Hawaii's roads.*

Mamalahoe Kanawai, Kamehameha's Law of the Splintered Paddle 1797, Hawaii state constitution 1978

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February 23, 2012

Dear Chairman:

Subject: **Support for SB2827, SD1**

I strongly support SB2827 SD1, which establishes funding for injury prevention under the Trauma System Special Fund. Injury prevention is an integral component of trauma systems, reducing the burden on the trauma system that is designed to treat those injuries.

For the last 25 years, I have been working in the injury prevention field in Hawai'i, conducting research, developing, implementing and evaluating new and evidenced based strategies, and serving as a member of the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injury in Hawai'i). The Department of Health has provided leadership and synergy for injury prevention efforts.

Injuries are a significant public health concern here in Hawai'i. Injuries take the lives of more children and young adults ages 1-40 years than all other causes of death combined. Injuries are also a leading cause of death among all adults and elderly. In an average week, 12 Hawai'i residents die from an injury, 115 are hospitalized and more than 1520 others are treated in emergency departments. Therefore, it is not surprising that a comprehensive trauma system includes prevention and rehabilitation in addition to acute care.

The Department of Health has a strong program that must be maintained as part of a comprehensive Trauma System that has been recognized locally and nationally for its injury prevention accomplishments as well as the important role it has played in an integrated trauma system for Hawai'i. Currently, key positions for injury prevention in the Department of Health are currently funded through the CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant which is at risk of being eliminated. Since injury prevention is a core component of a trauma system, moving these positions under the Trauma System Special Fund is a logical move and would help to ensure the Department of Health's ability to do the necessary work of injury prevention across the state.

I support the use of Trauma System Special Funds to support for injury prevention as a critical core component.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Deborah Goebert, Dr.P.H.