

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

SB2827 SD1 RELATING TO THE TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

Testimony of Billie Jeanne Tang; PT, MPH

CHAIR – Fall Prevention Consortium

February 23, 2011

To the Honorable:

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; and **Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

The Fall Prevention Consortium strongly supports SB2827 SD1, which is due for decision making tomorrow. The measure establishes funding for injury prevention under the Trauma System Special Fund. Preventing injuries reduces the burden on the trauma system that is designed to treat those injuries.

Established in 2001, the Fall Prevention Consortium is an advocacy group composed of private, public, agency, and concerned professionals working together to educate as well as reduce the impact of falls on our citizens. Each year over 5,100 children between the ages of 1 to 14 are treated in emergency rooms due to falls. Our kupuna suffer even more with over 5,700 treated in ER's however many of them never return home.

Overall, injuries are a major 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, including heart disease, stroke and cancer. Every 5 hours in Hawaii a senior is injured so severely in a fall that they must be hospitalized. The financial cost of injuries is staggering – in Hawaii, the average annual cost of medical services alone is nearly \$330 million.

Prevention programs are the proven and most cost-effective method to reduce injuries and their astounding burden on the health system, as well as the impact on the injured and their families.

A comprehensive Trauma System that includes prevention and rehabilitation in addition to acute care is critical to Hawaii in reducing injuries and improving the outcomes for those injured. The Department of Health has a strong program that must be maintained as part of a comprehensive Trauma System. In its 2005 review, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma acknowledged Hawaii's injury prevention program for its accomplishments and important role in an integrated trauma system for Hawaii.

It is therefore, an appropriate use of Trauma System Special Funds and good public policy to ensure the reduction of death and disability to Hawaii's people through a comprehensive Trauma System that includes support for injury prevention as a critical core component.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Ige, Chair

Conference Room 211
February 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Commenting in support of SB 2827 SD1: Relating to the Trauma System Special Fund

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of SB 2827 SD 1, which clarifies that the Trauma System Special Fund may be used to pay for staff for the State's injury prevention program.

The Legislature created the Trauma System Special Fund in 2006 to support the continuing development and operation of a comprehensive state trauma system. This initiative was largely in response to a 2005 report by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, which found that "Progress in trauma system development in Hawaii has been slow and inconsistent." The report contained a number of recommendations for creating a comprehensive trauma system, including injury prevention and control. This bill explicitly states that the Trauma System Special Fund may be used for injury prevention.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association expresses its support for SB 2827 SD 1.



SAFE KIDS Hawaii

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Chairman Ige and Members of the Committee:

Subject: **Support for SB2827**

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 SB2827** which establishes funding for injury prevention under the Trauma System Special Fund.

Injuries take the lives of more children and young adults ages 1-40 years than all other causes of death combined, including heart disease, stroke and cancer. A comprehensive Trauma System that includes prevention and rehabilitation in addition to acute care, is critical to Hawaii in reducing injuries and improving the outcomes for children and youth.

The Department of Health has a strong program that has been instrumental in working with KIPC since 1993 to implement programs and support policies to increase safety practices. An example of our partnership that resulted in improved safety practices and lives saved is the statewide system of child safety seat installations and community car seat checkups. These are provided to the public free of charge through established installation sites and community checkup events statewide and have contributed to child passenger restraint use doubling between 1997 and 2008.

A comprehensive Trauma System that includes support for injury prevention as a critical core component will help to ensure the reduction of death and disability to Hawaii's children and youth and people of all ages. We urge you to support the passage of SB 2827. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Susan LaFontaine, Co-Chair
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition