



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/04/2016

**Time:** 08:30 AM

**Location:** 329

**Committee:** House Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1841 RELATING TO YOUTH SPORTS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Regulates youth sports coaches by requiring an annual permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB 1841 and submits the following comments for the committee's consideration.

The Department has strong concerns regarding the definition of "youth sports coach" as proposed in this measure. As such, a "youth sports coach" would include any coach involved in the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA), and therefore, would be applicable to all Hawaii public high school athletic coaches.

**Permit fees.** On an annual basis, approximately 4,500 high school coaches statewide support Hawaii public high school athletics programs. A permit requirement may negatively affect the hiring of coaches.

**Training requirements; CPR and First aid training requirements .** Hawaii public high school athletic coach applicants must complete:

- (1) a course, workshop or proof of competency in First Aid;
- (2) certificate of completion of a class in CPR;
- (3) a course or workshop in the prevention and care of athletic injuries; and
- (4) a course, workshop or clinic in the specific sport, or one season of verified internship under an experienced head coach (head coaches only).

Also, it is also highly recommended that all head coaches and assistant coaches obtain certification in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Education Program. This certification requirement should be completed within two years of initial hire.

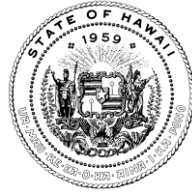
**Concussion education requirements .** All coaches are required to complete an online

concussion awareness course, or attend a Department-sponsored concussion clinic annually.

**Background checks.** The Department already requires criminal history record checks pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §846-2.7 Criminal History Record Checks and §302A-601.5 DOE Employees Criminal History Record Check, and Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 8, Chapter 7, Public School Personnel: Criminal History Record, Employment History and Background Checks.

In summary, the Department already addresses the requirements proposed in HB 1841. Respectfully, we request the reference to the HHSAA be stricken from this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1841.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

Thursday, February 4, 2016  
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1841, RELATING TO YOUTH SPORTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill No. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports.

The purpose of House Bill No. 1841 is to increase child safety by establishing standards and regulations for youth sports coaches.

House Bill No. 1841 creates a new chapter to regulate youth sports coaches. Section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), requires that new regulatory measures being considered for enactment be referred to the State Auditor for a sunrise analysis. Referral is required to be made by concurrent resolution that identifies a

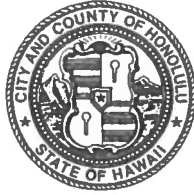
specific legislative bill to be analyzed. The statute further requires that the analysis shall set forth the probable effects of regulation, assess whether its enactment is consistent with the legislative policies of the Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act, and assess alternative forms of regulation.

Therefore, this bill should be deferred until a sunrise analysis on this measure is conducted by the Auditor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 1841.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO  
MARIE A. McCAULEY  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RA-YZ

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Human Services  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports

I am Raymond Ancheta, Major of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes House Bill No. 1841, which regulates youth sports coaches by requiring an annual permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). We believe that the DCCA annual permit requirement would severely impact the number of adults willing to coach youth athletics, as well as increase the cost to participant families and organizations.

While we agree with protocols to address background checks, CPR, first aid, and concussion education, most youth athletic clubs already adhere to these requirements to comply with the terms of liability insurance.

We need more volunteer coaches and youths to participate in these activities not less.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill No. 1841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Ancheta", written over a horizontal line.

RAYMOND ANCHETA, Major  
Community Affairs Division

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa", written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police



February 1, 2016

**The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair**

House Committee on Human Services, Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports**

**HEARING: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Jeaney Garcia, here to testify on behalf of Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H), a voice for character education, sportsmanship, and safety in youth sports in Hawai'i, and its 24,877 kids impacted so far as a result of PCA-H workshops and partnerships throughout the state.

PCA-H supports the intent of H.B. 1841 which:

1. Requires every youth sports coach to obtain a permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
2. Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to uphold annual certification and to provide positive coach training via PCA-H workshops which include concussion education and heat illness prevention;
3. Establishes that every youth sports coach be required to have CPR and basic First Aid certification bi-annually;
4. Establishes that every youth sports coach be required to have a background check before teaching or training any athlete on the team in which the youth sports coach is coaching (provided that only one permit per year shall be required for a youth sports coach who coaches multiple teams).

PCA-H is working with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations through PCA-H partnerships and workshops. Our goal is to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and often alarming. Please see appendix statistics.

We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan to offer PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for youth sport coaches.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

## Appendix for H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports

### Page 1

1. In the domain of Positive Coaching, research overwhelmingly shows that the quality of a child's sport experience depends on the quality of the adult leaders, especially the coach. In many instances, a coach may be the ONLY positive influence in a child's life, making it essential that our proposed education can engage with communities of all types.
  - Sadly, of the estimated 40 million youth who participate in sports nationwide, an overwhelming 70% drop out of organized athletics altogether by age 13.
  - According to the Department of Health and Human Services, children who drop out of organized extra-curricular activities like sports are more likely to:
    1. Drop out of school (57%)
    2. Use drugs (49%)
    3. Become teen parents (37%)
    4. Smoke cigarettes (35%)
    5. Be arrested during their teenage years (27%)
  - The number one reason children cite for abandoning sports is that it's "no longer fun." A major siphon of the fun is the win-at-all-costs mentality that filters down from professional sports and its "entertainment-money-business culture". This mentality pervades youth sports and is at odds with what children need and want.
  - This is where PCA-H comes in. Our research-based programs are designed specifically to improve the culture of sports so youth stay engaged and reap the character building, health, and mental benefits that sports can offer.
2. Regarding general safety, the Youth Sports Safety Alliance cites:
  - Approximately 8,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each day for sports-related injuries, and sports injury visits to ERs were highest in remote rural settings.
  - High school athletes suffer 2 million injuries, 500,000 doctor visits and 30,000 hospitalizations each year.
  - There are three times as many catastrophic football injuries among high school athletes as college athletes.
  - History of injury is often a risk factor for future injury, making prevention critical.
  - 62% of organized sports-related injuries occur during practices.
  - Only 42% of high schools have access to athletic training services.
3. On concussions, the Youth Sports Safety Alliance says:
  - **50%** of "second impact syndrome" incidents - brain injury caused from a premature return to activity after suffering initial injury (concussion) - result in death.
  - 400,000 brain injuries (concussions) occurred in high school athletics during the 2008-09 school year.
  - 15.8% of football players who sustain a concussion severe enough to cause loss of consciousness return to play the same day.
  - Emergency department visits for concussions sustained during organized team sports doubled among 8-13 year olds between 1997 and 2007 and nearly tripled among older youth.

**Appendix for H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports**  
**Page 2**

4. Heat Illness is a perennial concern here in Hawaii, and on this topic, the Youth Sports Safety Alliance indicates:
  - High school athletes, especially males, are at the **highest risk** of suffering exertional heat illness requiring treatment in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.
  - 31 high school players died of heat stroke complications between 1995 and 2009.
  - 64.7% of football players sustaining a heat illness were either overweight or obese.
  - The number of heat-related injuries from 1997 to 2006 increased 133%. Youth accounted for the largest proportion of heat-related injuries or 47.6%.
  - 2 out of 3 kids show up for practice significantly dehydrated.
  
5. CPR and First Aid are life saving skills. The Youth Sports Safety Alliance reports that
  - Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the leading cause of death in exercising young athletes.
  - Just 1 in 10 U.S. student-athletes who suffer sudden cardiac arrest survives.
  - It's estimated that more than 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.
  
6. Who are youth sport coaches? Many are parents that volunteer, and others are focused on coaching as a vocation. But do we really know who the people are that end up spending a significant amount of time with our children?
  - The Department of Justice has been tracking the occurrence of child molestation and rape in youth sports. There are many criminals who have infiltrated youth sports with the sole intent of grooming and sexually abusing athletes. These criminals are preying on powerless victims who trust them implicitly.
  - A child in America is sexually assaulted every two minutes.
  - Experts tell us that perpetrators of child abuse are almost always known to the victim and commonly hold positions of trust and confidence in the community.
  - There are currently more than 400,000 known sexual offenders identified on state sex offender registries. These are just the ones we know about.
  - Although the number of athletes who are abused or exploited by coaches has never been quantified, the research on sexual abuse in general is massive and sobering.
  - Many experts believe that sexual abuse in sport, like sexual abuse in society, goes well beyond isolated incidents. Keith Lanning, an FBI supervisory agent, who has written extensively about child molesters, says that the average "seducer" molester, the kind most common in youth sports, victimizes approximately 120 children before he is caught.
  - Despite today's charged atmosphere, in which it may seem that allegations are easily made, estimates are that for every serious incident reported, 10 go unreported.
  - Unfortunately, sports and other youth activities present an ideal opportunity for abusers. Experts say sexual predators typically seek the trust of both the parents and the child before beginning the abuse, so the child will be afraid to complain. This is compounded by the fact that an emotional bond is often created between the youth and the adult.



The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services, Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports

HEARING: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Andrew Rosen, submitting testimony in support of HB 1841 Relating to Youth Sports. As a Director of Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H), a voice for character education, sportsmanship, and safety in youth sports in Hawai'i, I support this Bill.

PCA-H supports the intent of H.B. 1841 which:

1. Requires every youth sports coach to obtain a permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
2. Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to uphold annual certification and to provide positive coach training via PCA-H workshops which include concussion education and heat illness prevention;
3. Establishes that every youth sports coach be required to have CPR and basic First Aid certification bi-annually;
4. Establishes that every youth sports coach be required to have a background check before teaching or training any athlete on the team in which the youth sports coach is coaching (provided that only one permit per year shall be required for a youth sports coach who coaches multiple teams).

PCA-H is working with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations through PCA-H partnerships and workshops. Our goal is to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and often alarming. Please see appendix statistics. We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan to offer PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for youth sport coaches.

Mahalo

Andrew Rosen



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*Chairman and Founder*

Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.  
*President/CEO*

Eddie Kemp  
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Gilbert Collins

Robert W. "Bill" Hastings II

Robin Tijoe

February 4, 2016

8:30 AM

Conference Room 329

To: House Committee on Human Services

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

President Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

RE: HB 1841 -- RELATING TO YOUTH SPORTS

*Comments Only*

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on HB 1841, which would regulate youth sports coaches by requiring that all coaches—including coaches in private youth sports organizations—obtain an annual permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The stated intent of this bill is to improve safety (especially concussion safety) in youth sports in Hawaii, an admirable goal that is worthy of consideration by the legislature. However, the bill as written raises serious concerns about whether the mechanism employed will have the unintended effect of undermining—or even shutting down—organizational youth sports in the state.

Youth sports organizations are heavily dependent on volunteer coaches and work hard to keep entry costs as low as possible so as to allow for greater community participation. Creating a barrier and expense for a position that is sometimes difficult to fill will reduce the number of volunteer coaches, and may force youth sports leagues to contract or disappear altogether.

Moreover, the burden this bill would create for the Department of Commerce should not be ignored. Requiring that Department to suddenly manage an influx of thousands of permit applications will require considerable manpower, but provide little reassurance that the underlying goals of the legislation are being met.

Fortunately, there is a more practical and less intrusive way to meet the goals of improving youth sports safety without threatening to shut down youth sports in the state. Most reputable youth sports organizations already require coaches to attend basic classes on safety and concussion awareness. Those that don't could easily be encouraged to do so through legislation that targets league access to public facilities.

Several states and municipalities, including Virginia, New York, and parts of Massachusetts, have adopted policies and legislation governing the use of public sports facilities by private leagues.<sup>1</sup> While the various regulations vary by locality, they generally mandate that any league that seeks a permit to use public facilities require its coaches and referees to attend safety/concussion training. Some even empower game officials to remove at-risk players or require leagues to hold annual baseline neurocognitive testing for youth players over a certain age.

Putting the onus on the leagues themselves to improve safety serves two advantages—first, it lessens the burden on the state agency, which could struggle to take on this level of oversight and regulation. Secondly, it makes it more likely that parents themselves will become more aware of safety and concussion protocols by placing the responsibility on those who are closest to the problem and the most motivated to address it. Leagues will have to communicate with parents about what measures are being put in place, and those present are better equipped to address failings and gaps in the system than a bureaucrat on another island.

Balancing the benefits provided by youth sports with the oversight required to protect children is a tricky proposition, and the challenge is finding an approach that supports parents and children without introducing overly burdensome regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,  
Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.  
President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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<sup>1</sup> Brooke DeLench. "Power of the Permit: Improving Youth Sports Safety One Municipality at a Time." Mom's Team. (July 24, 2015) Available at: <http://www.momsteam.com/blog/brooke-de-lench/power-permit-improving-youth-sports-safety-one-municipality-at-time#ixzz3z8ivGeiJ>

**kobayashi2-Jessi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** karenmukai@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM\*

**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen S. Mukai	Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## kobayashi2-Jessi

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:31 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** kalanikaanaana@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

### **HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalani Kaanaana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha members, I stand in opposition of HB 1841 as currently drafted because it places an undue burden on me as a coach. As an OIA coach of canoe paddling for the last ten years I have been certified and re-certified annually by the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS). My current certifications include: Fundamentals of Coaching, Concussions in Sports, and Heat Illness Prevention, CPR/AED. By establishing this permit from the DCCA with a Fee I am being charged twice for similar certification. I would recommend that if I submit my certificates from NFHS that it be recognized by the DCCA and a permit issued without a fee. An alternate solution would be to waive completely those coaches of HHSAA from the requirement. Should you have any questions please contact me at 808-351-0943. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Kalani Kaanaana

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Edward Thompson, III

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:46 PM  
To: HUS testimony  
Cc: pcabigisland@hawaiiantel.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanne Yagi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H) has established relationships with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations through PCA-H partnerships and workshops since 2002. Our goal is to continue to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and often alarming. Please refer to the appendix statistics which are part of the testimony. We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. PCA-H is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check. We appreciate your consideration and input to this measure. Mahalo for your work to improve measures for the safety of our children.

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Edward Thompson, III

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:16 PM  
To: HUS testimony  
Cc: jjbower3@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jeanlin Bower	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: In support of Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii's outstanding efforts to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach, I believe we need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. PCA-H is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check. If you have further questions or would like additional comment, please feel free to let me know. Thank you, J. Bower

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**kobayashi2-Jessi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:00 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** jchouljian@speakeasy.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Chouljian	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii has been supporting youth sport organizations in Hawaii since 2002. Their goal is to continue to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. If you consider the disappointing and often alarming statistics regarding youth sports, there is a very large need for this type of education. We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. PCA is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and Leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check.

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## kobayashi2-Jessi

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:30 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** richard.garcia@nextgate.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

### **HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee: I am aware that H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports, is open for testimony. Please accept my personal testimony below in favor of this bill. As a parent of two boys that have participated in various youth sports both here in Hawaii and on the mainland, it becomes obvious quite quickly if they will have an enjoyable experience. The main factor influencing their attitude is the demeanor of the coach(es). Regardless of the amount of "playing time" the boys get, the biggest impact on them comes from the vision, enthusiasm, and philosophy of coaching as communicated to the players via every word and action of the coaching staff. We have experienced incredible coaches, a few mediocre ones, and a few detrimental ones. No matter their level of expertise in the skill and strategy of the particular sport, their engagement with the players is key to a positive or negative experience, which then translates into reciprocal feelings of self-worth, self-respect, and self-esteem. We have also witnessed the favorable transformation of a (open minded) coach after some basic education on the nature of the coaching relationship with players. As a presence in my boys' lives, their coaches offer a valuable alternative voice. With such an important role, I support the initiatives of H.B. 1841 to provide positive coaching education, critical health safety certification, and background checks, so that us parents can feel more confident entrusting our precious children to a third party. Mahalo. Richard Garcia

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Human Services  
Thursday, February 4, 2016

By  
Carl Clapp

HB 1841 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

I support the intent of HB 1814 to regulate youth sports coaches by requiring an annual permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Participation in youth and high school sports is an opportunity for young people to learn about values that are important in life including teamwork, perseverance, and how to respond appropriately to both success and challenges.

Our community is fortunate to have so many individuals dedicated to serving and working with our youth. This bill ensures that that is the case in the future by requiring training, certification in CPR and First Aids, education on concussions, and background screening. We will need to make the licensing as inexpensive to the coach as possible so as not to discourage appropriate mentors and role models from assisting.

I also want to draw to your to Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawai'i, (PCA-H) as I am a Board member. PCA-H has established relationships with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sports organizations through partnerships and workshops since 2002. PCA-H is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and leaders centered on positive coaching, safety education and enhancing the participants experience. PCA-H will continue to support all efforts of this nature and stands ready to assist with additional training opportunities should this bill or similar efforts be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony.

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my concern over HB 1841 regarding the permitting of youth coaches. I am with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), a non-profit here in Kaneohe and have been a part of this organization for over 15 years. Currently, the National AYSO rules state that all coaches and assistant coaches must fulfil the following in order to coach:

- Be a registered volunteer with AYSO (this includes a background check as part of the process).
- Have the age-appropriate coach certification.
- Pass the Safe Haven course and exam which covers various topics such as child protection protocols, supervision protocols, goal and field safety, injury prevention, concussion awareness, first aid, recognizing abuse and risk management.

Over the years, these requirements have done a really good job at screening and training our coaches to ensure that only qualified and appropriate persons are allowed to coach a youth team. This past season, we had over 150 volunteer coaches and assistant coaches to coach the approximately 1100 players that signed up to play. I am sure that I don't have to tell you that it is very difficult to get this number of folks to volunteer to coach a team given the time commitment and training required to take on this task.

I am afraid that if this bill is passed, the extra burden of now having to obtain a permit will be another excuse for them to not volunteer. Without sufficient coaches, not all players can be accommodated and have to be turned away. In the end, it's the children that are impacted as there will not be sufficient coaches to accommodate all of the players.

In addition, the extra cost of permitting will be passed along to the families who are already struggling to make ends meet. This will invariably cause some families to not sign their children up for soccer since they cannot afford the price. We already see this and have set up a scholarship program to assist some of the families that are struggling so that their children can play. However, our funding is limited and we may not be able to accommodate everyone who needs it.

I'm sorry that I don't have a solution that will ensure 100% child safety when it comes to youth sports as it is a very complex issue with many facets. I fully understand and support the emphasis on youth safety, but the mechanism for accomplishing this needs to be at the organization level and not controlled by the State. Please consider the negative impact that this bill will have to the many, many organizations that rely on volunteer coaches to provide sport activities to our youth.

Sincerely,

John Itai  
Regional Commissioner  
Kaneohe AYSO, Region 113  
[rckaneoheyso@gmail.com](mailto:rckaneoheyso@gmail.com)  
351-3710

**kobayashi2-Jessi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 4:17 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** cquindica@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM



**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Quindica	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H) is committed to hold established and gain new relationships with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations. Existing PCA-H partnerships and educational opportunities have been established since 2002 here across the islands of Hawaii. PCA-H's goal is to continue to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and in some cases leave our children feeling defeated, worthless and not motivated. This can carry over in all aspects of life. By working together with PCA-H on creative solutions to increase child safety, physical health and spiritual health we as a State are honoring our past, addressing and managing our present and most importantly..planning on how to create Better Future People. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. PCA-H is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and community leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check. Hawaii's future is our KEIKI and we need Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii to help educate, mentor and coach those that we trust to shape our Keiki into outstanding contributing participants of society.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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*Max J Sword  
P.O. Box 22782  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

2/04/2016  
Rm. 329, 8:30 AM

HB 1841  
Relating to Youth Sports

Chair Morikawa and Members of this Committee, my name is Max Sword, here as a private citizen to voice my concerns with HB 1841.

While I applaud the purpose of this bill, I believe it will have an adverse effect on the youth sports community. It is a good that coaches of our youth need to have safety standards when coaching. However requiring a volunteer coach to register with the Department of Consumer Protection, pay a fee, go thru a slew of permitting requirements, will dampen the enthusiasm of a parent who normally is that volunteer coach.

Statistically, the life span of a volunteer is 2.5 years. In soccer alone, excluding high school, there are over 25,000 youth playing the game in this state. Divide that by the average of 12 players a team comes out to over 4,000 head and assistant coaches the department has to accommodate.

In the 2 prominent youth soccer leagues, AYSO & HYSA, there are requirement that coaches have to have concussion training and get background checks.

These leagues have come a long way in adding these requirements for their coaches, so I believe that they will continue to progress on their own and encompass more safety measures in the future.

I urge your reconsideration of this measure.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

**kobayashi2-Jessi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:27 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** jqhansen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM



**HB1841**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqueline Hansen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, I endorse this legislation as a parent, a coach, an athletic director, an educator, and a career specialist in youth coaching education (having worked at LA84 Sports Foundation for 12 years). I have coached and taught K-12 schools for many years and I am currently at the university level teaching teachers and coaches both. I know sports and children from all these aspects in my life. This is the right thing to do. Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H) has established relationships with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations through PCA-H partnerships and workshops since 2002. Our goal is to continue to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and often alarming. Please refer to the appendix statistics which are part of the testimony. We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, PCA-H applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. PCA-H is committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check. Respectfully submitted, Jacqueline Hansen

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am the U-08 Age Group Coordinator and youth coach with AYSO in Kaneohe. My wife and I have coached our daughter for the past 3 years. I am responsible for finding coaches for the season and ensuring that they complete the required courses defined by the National AYSO Board of Directors.

We have had increased difficulty in finding coaches to assist with the number of youth that sign up. For the past two seasons, there have been approximately 300 children each year that have signed up. We needed approximately 42 coaches for the regular seasons. During the extended season, we have had about 120 children sign up each year, and needed 14 coaches. In 2015 and 2016, my wife and I have had to take on 3 teams just to meet the needs of the children, so everyone who wanted to was able to play.

If this bill is enacted, we will see a huge decline in the number of volunteers and players. The costs for the licenses will eventually be passed on to the players. All of our coaches are volunteers, and coach for the love of the game or the desire to help their children stay active. With an increased emphasis on making our youth more active, this will have the opposite effect. Parents will not want to pay the increased fees and they will be less likely to volunteer.

In conclusion, although well meaning, this bill will have a huge negative impact on youth sports. For high schools or leagues that pay their coaches, I could understand the necessity of this bill. However, with all volunteer organizations, this will be an unnecessary burden to the parents/volunteers. AYSO has very strict background checks and all volunteers go through training every year. Please consider a no vote for this bill.

Thank you-  
Jason Oreskovich  
AYSO U-08 Girls Age Group Coordinator and Coach  
[jasonrskvch@gmail.com](mailto:jasonrskvch@gmail.com)  
808-295-9355



February 3, 2016

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services, Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1841, Relating to Youth Sports

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii (PCA-H) has established relationships with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various youth sport organizations through PCA-H partnerships and workshops since 2002. The goal is to continue to educate schools and youth sport organizations to increase the safety of our children by establishing standards and regulations for the people that accept the very important role of youth sport coach. It is clear that there is a need for this type of education because the statistics regarding safety concerns in youth sports are disappointing and often alarming. Please refer to the appendix statistics which are part of the testimony.

We need to work together on creative solutions to increase child safety and educate our coaches. As such, BGCH applauds this innovative plan for programming which addresses all stakeholders. We are all committed to providing educational opportunities for students, coaches, parents, officials, and leaders through PCA-H partnerships and workshops to include positive coaching with critical safety education and pre-emptive solutions for our communities. Every child deserves a coach who meets a standard and has a critical background check.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Motts  
President and CEO  
Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii

Administrative Office  
345 Queen St, Suite 900  
Honolulu HI 96813  
Tel 808-949-4203  
Fax 808-955-4496  
www.bgch.com

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Charles C. Spalding

President & CEO  
Tim Motts



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am a youth coach with AYSO in Kaneohe. My husband and I have coached our daughter for the past 3 years. For the past 2 years, I have assisted my husband with his age group coordinator position. We are responsible for finding coaches for the season. The past two seasons, we have also reinstated a spring season for the division.

We have had increased difficulty in finding coaches to assist with the number of youth that sign up. For the past two seasons, there have been approximately 300 children each year that have signed up. We needed approximately 42 coaches for the regular seasons. During the extended season, we have had about 120 children sign up each year, and needed 14 coaches. In 2015 and 2016, my husband and I have had to take on 3 teams just to meet the needs of the children, so everyone who wanted to was able to play.

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In conclusion, although well meaning, this bill will have a huge negative impact on youth sports. For high schools or leagues that pay their coaches, I could understand the necessity of this bill. However, with all volunteer organizations, this will be an unnecessary burden to the parents/volunteers. AYSO has very strict background checks and all volunteers go through training every year. Please consider a no vote for this bill.

Thank you-  
Kimberly Bardon  
AYSO U-08 Girls Coach  
[kbardon@gmail.com](mailto:kbardon@gmail.com)  
808-330-1376

February 3, 2016



TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Committee on Human Service

FR: Nella Sword – Area Director  
American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)

RE: HB #1841 RELATING TO YOUTH SPORTS  
Committee Hearing Rm. 329 8:30 a.m.

I am writing this testimony to ask that HB #1841 be deferred pending further examination of requirements necessary to become a youth coach in the state of Hawaii.

My name is Nella Sword and I am one of 3 Area Directors for AYSO within the state of Hawaii. We have approximately 15,000 youth players ages 4 to 19 playing soccer here in Hawaii. We are also an all-volunteer organization.

Keeping our players safe is our primary concern. Some requirements that are listed in HB 1841 are already addressed within our organization. Every coach is required to attend age appropriate training, and every volunteer, including our coaches, receive a mandatory background check every year. Concussion education is now recommended for all volunteers, and required for all coaches of every age group. AYSO provides this training online, using video produced by the Center for Disease Control. While CPR and first aid training are not yet required, some coaches voluntarily pay for and attend their own training.

I agree that these requirements set an excellent basis for providing a safe environment for our keiki as they participate in youth sports. I would also support a bill that would make these requirements mandatory for all youth sports organizations. However, I cannot support a bill that requires coaches to obtain and pay for a permit from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in order to coach. Our coaches are volunteers. Many would not take the time or make the time to go to a state department to apply for a permit. Most would certainly not want to pay for this permit, let alone have to reapply every year. This would impact our program in a very negative way. Less coaches mean less children would be able to play soccer, and I doubt that is what the author of this bill had in mind.

Perhaps requiring permits for coaches will work for those who are being paid to do so. Requiring a volunteer in a non-profit organization to apply and pay for a permit before being allowed to coach youth sports will definitely not work.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify against the passage of this bill.

Nella Sword  
45-672 Kuahulu Pl.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Ph. (808)382-1298