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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

Monday, February 29, 2016  
2:05 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7, REQUESTING THE  
AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF LICENSING AND  
REGULATING YOUTH SPORTS COACHES.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, 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 offer comments on H.C.R. No. 7.

The concurrent resolution requests that the Auditor perform a sunrise review pursuant to section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), of the licensure and regulation of youth sports coaches, as proposed under House Bill No. 1841. The Auditor's analysis would set forth the probable effects of the proposed regulatory

measure, assess whether its enactment is consistent with the purposes of section 26H-2, HRS, and assess alternate forms of regulation. The Department agrees that a sunrise review should be completed by the Auditor before youth sports coaches are regulated.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on H.C.R. No. 7.

**LATE**



February 29, 2016

**The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair**  
Consumer Protection & Commerce, Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**RE: HCR7, Relating to Youth Sports**  
**HEARING: Monday, February 29, 2016 at 2:05 a.m.**

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Justin Woodson, 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 HCR7 which:

1. Helps to ensure that the children of this State receive quality coaching in a safe environment;
2. Emphasizes moral development, the teaching of valuable social skills, and instills leadership qualities;
3. Strongly recommends providing positive coach training via PCA-H workshops;

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.

After further discussion and coordination, **amendments** to strongly encourage youth sport organizations to have for their coaches (concussion education is already mandated through SB2557):

1. Background check included in the liability insurance OR education about how organizations can find background information on their coaches on the State of Hawaii sex offender registry
2. Heat Illness Education and Prevention
3. CPR and First Aid training
4. Training Requirements and Certifications which could include Positive Coaching Alliance-Hawaii

>(Line 26) BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of All Counties in Hawaii and the State of Hawaii...of the probable effects of consistency in training youth sports coaches as proposed in HCR7.

>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, the Hawaii High School Athletics Association, and any youth sport organization which meets the aforementioned standards are exempt from this resolution.

>Additionally, there will be no permits or fees through Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). We will edit language to the Liability Insurance for Parks and Recreation and wherever youth sport organizations get a permit for facility use to include the aforementioned standards.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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**Statistics** and **Reasons Why** to include:

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. 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.

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4. 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.
  
5. Safety in youth sport coaches:
  - 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.