



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

**Date:** 02/26/2016

**Time:** 09:40 AM

**Location:** 211

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2557, SD1 RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Expands the concussion educational program established under Act 197, SLH 2012, to include youth athletic activities for participants aged 11 to 18 and incorporate additional program requirements. Appropriates funds to develop and implement the educational program and to administer concussion testing to high school student athletes. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) recognizes the importance of concussion educational programs for youth and concussion testing for high school student athletes. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with our partners on this worthy program.

For this committee's information, the concussion awareness and management program has successfully been implemented in our Hawaii high school athletic programs.

However, the Department does have some concerns as to the possible resources necessary to fully operationalize its implementation in our public schools for ages 11-13 as athletic trainer positions are placed at high schools to provide services to students who compete in organized interscholastic athletic activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2557 SD1.

Testimony for SB 2557 SD1 the Committees on Ways and Means

February 26, 2016 Conference Room 211

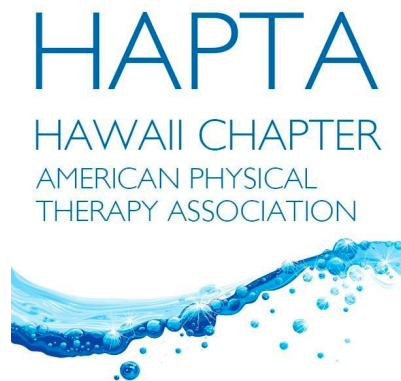
The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association (HATA) supports SB 2557SD1, Relating to Concussions, with amendments. This bill expands concussion education and awareness to the youth sports level and creates a funding mechanism to sustain the program that was implemented with ACT 197. The University of Hawaii-Manoa Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences Department (KRS) and the Hawaii Concussion Awareness and Management Program (HCAMP) partnered with the State Department of Health through a grant to create a program that exceeded all the requirements of ACT 197 for both public and private high schools. This program has become the standard for concussion management in our state and is now well understood and accepted by coaches, parents, and student athletes. There has been an increase in the reporting of concussions as a result of the increased awareness. An important component of the program is the utilization of a baseline and neurocognitive testing program which assists with determining when it is safe for students to return to play. These tests are reviewed by a Neuropsychologist who consults with the schools as a part of HCAMP. The funding requested in this bill would be primarily to sustain the neurocognitive testing at the secondary school and to expand educational efforts at the youth level.

HATA suggests three amendments to the bill. The first in Section 4. (5) to change the word "cognitive" and replace with "baseline" testing. Baseline testing currently also includes vestibular or balance testing in addition to cognitive testing. Research is rapidly and constantly evolving and in the near future there may be other types of testing created for this same purpose. The word "baseline" would allow a more broad requirement. We would also suggest eliminating the "cognitive" testing requirements for youth activities as youth leagues do not have trained individuals to administer and interpret the tests. The second amendment would be to eliminate in Section 4 (8) the clause that states that these requirements would not apply to "out of state Athletic Trainers who have served their respective teams for less than one month". We don't know what the rational for this is and why the length of a time an athletic trainer has worked with an out of state team is relevant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Cindy Clivio

On Behalf of the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association



**Chair Tokuda**  
**Ways and Means Committee**

**SB2557 HD1 Relating to Concussions**  
**Friday, 2/26/2016**  
**9:30pm, Room 211**

**Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Tokuda and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) is a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Concussions have a significant impact on the health of individuals and society. The American Physical Therapy Association recognizes that physical therapists are part of the multidisciplinary team of licensed health care providers that perform concussion management. The chapter **supports** SB 2557 which would expand the concussion educational program and strongly recommend **amendment** to Section 2, page 2, line 18-20 to include “physical therapist” under the definition of “Licensed health care provider”.

In the United States, the emergency department (ED) treats approximately 248,418 student athletes annually for traumatic brain injuries, including concussion as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The number of individuals who sustain concussions is larger than this, as some individuals do not receive treatment or are not assessed at the ED. It is very important to raise awareness of signs and symptoms as well as risk factors of concussions. It is also important to monitor those involved in school athletics and youth athletics consistently. HAPTA supports SB 2557.

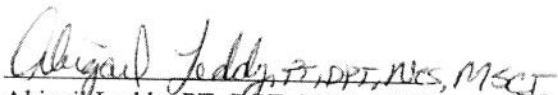
Physical therapists are licensed health care professionals who are trained in diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury. Physical therapists provide a unique contribution to the multidisciplinary team due to training in balance and vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation.

- Physical Therapists perform comprehensive examination of the whole body and balance systems to determine impairments and/or symptoms from concussion.
- Physical therapists:
  - Determine impairments and system abnormalities based on sensory, vestibular, or visual system examination
  - Implement and prescribe patient specific exercises to improve postural stability and dynamic balance reactions, as well as educate to reduce risk of falling
  - Implement and prescribes specific exercises to assist in diminishing symptoms of dizziness associated with concussion due to vestibular and visual deficits

- Treat the following causes of post-concussive dizziness which include but are not limited to: Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), Post-traumatic migraines, Labyrinthine Concussion, Perilymphatic Fistula, Brainstem Concussion
- Perform detailed screenings and interpretation of information to identify presence of concussion, reintroduce physical activity, and return to play as indicated while working with multidisciplinary team involved with the person's care (Physician, Neurologist, Neuropsychologist, ATC).
- Assess for differential diagnoses for more emergent conditions such as subdural hematoma, intracerebral hemorrhage, or vertebral artery dissection/cervical spine trauma
- At the federal level, it is a strong position of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) that physical therapists have an active role in concussion management, education, prevention, examination, evaluation, treatment, and making return to participation decisions. The current Safe Play Act (HR 829/S 436) for concussion management includes physical therapists as integral part of the multidisciplinary team with firm support of the larger American Physical Therapy Association.

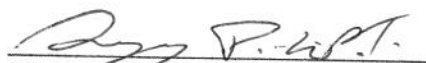
In closing,

- 1) Physical therapists are an integral part of the multidisciplinary team to address concussion awareness and administer concussion evaluation and treatment in individuals 4-18 years old.
- 2) It is the position of HAPTA that this bill should be strongly supported with the amendment to include physical therapists under the definition of "Licensed health care provider".

  
Abigail Leddy, PT, DPT, NCS, MSCI

Legislative Committee

Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association

  
Gregg Pacillio, PT

President

Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association



## Hawaii High School Athletic Association

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February 25, 2016

S.B. No. 2557, Relating to Concussions

I, Christopher Chun, Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (“HHSAA”), on behalf of HHSAA support S.B. No. 2557 relating to concussions. The HHSAA governs high school varsity coaches and student-athletes. This Bill provides needed expansion and continued funding of its predecessor, Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Act 197 has successfully impacted the lives of over one hundred thousand student-athletes in Hawaii by ensuring all high school coaches are concussion certified, and our student-athletes are protected by baseline testing.

Upon further review, Section 4(5) of S.B. No. 2557 should be amended as follows, “Cognitive testing of participants at HHSAA member schools during their 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade school years and/or as determined by the department of kinesiology and rehabilitation science of the University of Hawaii;”. While concussion awareness, education, and return to play guidelines should be extended to youth sport activities, cognitive testing is only appropriate for high school age students due to their advanced brain development. This amendment will not impact, S.B. No. 2557’s ability to ensure that Hawaii student-athletes are continually protected and monitored by one of the most far reaching concussion programs in the country.

### **About the HHSAA**

Founded in 1956, the Hawaii High School Athletic Association is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational athletic organization exclusively dedicated to serving 96 public and independent member high schools statewide, as they work cooperatively to support and promote athletics as part of the high school education program. As the umbrella organization of high school athletics, the HHSAA operates 44 state championships in 18 different sports, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, in addition to providing professional development opportunities for coaches and athletic administrators.

For more information on the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, go to [www.sportshigh.com](http://www.sportshigh.com).