



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 8:45 a.m.

By  
Donald B. Young, Dean and Professor  
College of Education  
and  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2557 SD2 – RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2557 SD1.

The College of Education supports SB 2557 SD1, however we would suggest recommended changes to include cognitive testing for youth athletic activities.

**Cognitive testing.** Specific to page 7 (#5) “*Cognitive testing of participants prior to the start of each season of school athletics or a youth athletic activity.*” We strongly recommend the removal of youth athletic activity receiving cognitive testing. Cognitive testing, while important for high school student athletes, is not feasible to provide to youth athletic activity groups. First, there are no athletic trainers (or designated person) at this level to assist with cognitive testing implementation, data collection, documenting and monitoring. Second, the cost associated with providing cognitive testing to youth activity groups is prohibitive. At present, cognitive testing is done at the high schools only. At each public high school, certified athletic trainers assist with implementing, monitoring, data collection and documenting cognitive testing for their respective schools for student athletes. We recommend to continue cognitive testing for students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. We would also recommend that the youth athletic activities receive concussion education and awareness only as stipulated in #2 page 5 of bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2257 SD1.



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

**Date:** 03/23/2016  
**Time:** 08:45 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2557, SD2 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, administer concussion testing to high school student athletes, and implement a concussion awareness and management program for students ages 11-13. (SD2)

**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, to date, has only been successfully implemented in our Hawaii high school athletic programs.

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

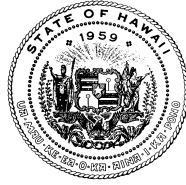
Given budgetary and personnel constraints, the Department proposes the following language for this Committee's consideration to allow for a concussion awareness program for students ages 11-13:

- Section 4, lines 3-5 (pg. 4) - "...Athletic Association shall jointly develop a concussion monitoring and educational program for school athletics ~~and youth athletic activities~~ that shall require:"
- Section 4 (5), lines 5-7 (pg. 7) - "Cognitive testing of participants prior to the start of each

season of school athletics ~~or a youth athletics activity;~~

- Section 5, lines 17-19 (pg. 8) - "...the department of education to implement ~~the~~ a concussion awareness ~~and management~~ program for Hawaii public school students who are eleven to thirteen years old."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2557 SD2



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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2557, SD2  
Relating to CONCUSSIONS**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: MARCH 23, 2016

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Hawaii State Department of Health provides comments on  
3 SB2557 SD2.

4 The purpose of this bill is to expand the scope of the concussion education program established  
5 under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 (“Act 197”), by: including youth athletic activities  
6 for ages 11 to 18; incorporating additional program requirements; The Department provides the  
7 following comments.

8 DOH supports the intent of providing education on concussions prevention and development of  
9 evidence-based concussion management protocols. Education can help to avert long term  
10 damages related to head injuries that occur during athletic activities, and even prevent these  
11 types of injuries.

12 DOH has concerns about the feasibility of mandating implementation of concussion management  
13 programs in all youth athletic activities statewide. The term “youth athletic activity” is broadly  
14 defined to include organized athletic activity in team, club, or other entities involving  
15 participants from age 11 to 18. The Department believes that it may not be feasible to conduct  
16 cognitive testing for this extremely broad range of participants in youth athletic activity.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## Hawaii High School Athletic Association

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[www.sportsHIgh.com](http://www.sportsHIgh.com)

March 21, 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.

S.B. No. 2557 will ensure that Hawaii student-athletes are continually protected and monitored by one of the most far reaching concussion programs in the country. Without it, several state agencies will likely be exposed to potential liability and lawsuits that have arisen in other states across the country such as those in Illinois, California, and Pennsylvania. These lawsuits have sought for concussion baseline testing to be mandatory and a precursor to high school athletic activities.

Finally, S.B. No. 2557 is important because it extends Act 197 to youth sport organizations. It is extremely important that youth activities are included since many of them do not have access to athletic trainers and physicians as they do once they reach high school. Coaches education plays a key role in protecting against concussions until an athlete reaches the proper age to begin baseline testing.

### **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).

# HAPTA

## HAWAII CHAPTER

AMERICAN PHYSICAL  
THERAPY ASSOCIATION



**Chair Belatti**  
**Health Committee**

**SB2557 SD2 Relating to Concussions**  
**Wednesday, 3/23/2016**  
**8:45am, Room 329**

**Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Belatti and members of the Health 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.

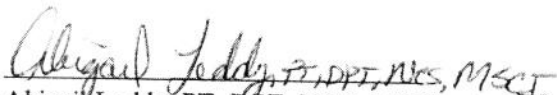
Physical therapists are licensed health care professionals who are trained in diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury. Physical therapists provide a unique contribution to the multidisciplinary team due to training in balance and vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation.

- 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.

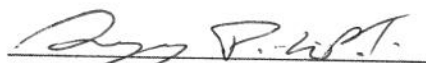
In closing,

- 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

Testimony for SB 2557 SD2 the House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016 Conference Room 329

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association (HATA) supports SB 2557SD2, 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 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. 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 rationale 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