



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

**Date:** 02/28/2018  
**Time:** 10:45 AM  
**Location:** 221  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2211, SD1 RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Further expands the concussion educational program established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, to include athletic events beginning from grade three. Appropriates funds for the continuation of the concussion educational program. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2211 SD1. This measure recognizes the importance of concussion educational programs for youth.

The Department's multi-year collaboration with the department of kinesiology and rehabilitation science of the University of Hawaii has led to successful implementation of a concussion awareness and management program in Hawaii high school athletic programs statewide. The Department looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the University of Hawaii to expand the scope of the concussion educational program established under Act 197 (SLH 2012) and Act 262 (SLH 2016).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2211 SD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 10:45 a.m.

By  
Nathan Murata, PhD  
Dean, College of Education  
and  
Michael Bruno  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2211 SD1 – RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i College of Education (COE) supports the intent of SB 2211 SD1, relating to concussions with amendments. The COE appreciates this legislative body's wisdom and foresight in funding Act 262 in 2016, making Hawai'i one of the first states in the nation to provide funding for concussion baseline and post testing for high school student athletes and providing concussion education to parents, coaches, school personnel, and student athletes' grades 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. However, the reach to educate youth athletes to age 11 has been a challenge for this department. There are well over 20 different youth sports from collision sports such as football, rugby and motor cross to non-contact sports such as cheerleading, track and volleyball all which have a potential risk for sustaining a concussion. Identifying and obtaining contact information for these sports administrators who organize the leagues and club sports state wide has been our leading obstacle.

The COE would like to decrease the liability of the State of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i, and sports leagues/organizations from individuals who would charge that they did not know or were not provided with the current concussion education and awareness by their sports organization. Therefore the COE would like to offer these amendments:

1. Increase the current appropriation by \$180,000 to fund commercial advertising to target all of Hawaii's citizens via television, internet and print media ads. As well as increase the personnel to this program to target the 11 to 13 age groups.
2. Delay implementation to age 8 (grade 3) until FY 2020. The COE will provide a report prior to legislative session 2020 of the current status of its education and awareness program to ages 11 to 13 and report on the feasibility to reach a lower age group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

## *For a Healthy Hawai'i*

---

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

[www.hawaiipsychology.org](http://www.hawaiipsychology.org)

Phone: (808) 521-8995

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

### **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports Senate Bill 2211, which further expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Young athletes may incur hundreds of repetitive head impacts (RHI) in one season. Even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. There is a growing consensus among neurologists specializing in CTE that participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. Research evidence indicates that the risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 specifically address this concern by including all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Gamby, Ph.D.  
President, HPA



**SB 2211sd1, RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS.  
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 10:45 am  
Conference Room 211  
Position: Support**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 340 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. We are movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

Physical therapists provide a unique contribution to the concussion care management team, particularly in the areas of balance and vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation.

The chapter **supports** SB 2211sd1 and continues to support the Department of Education and Hawaii High School Athletics Association's concussion education program intent to protect children participating in athletic events at public and private schools in the State of Hawaii.

A national survey of 2,012 Americans 18 and older conducted in April 2015 by the Harris Poll on behalf of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)-a global leader in testing, treating, and researching sports-related concussions- found that roughly 9 of 10 respondents couldn't correctly identify what a concussion is. However, about the same number consider it a moderate to severe health concern, and 32% of parents "live in fear" that their child will sustain a concussion, and 1 in 4 parents forbid their children to play some contact sports because of that fear. It is very important to raise awareness on the subject and include all ages. Programs for concussion education prove valuable as concussions are a very recoverable injury if properly identified and receive appropriate care.

Your support of SB 2211sd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Joanne Zazzera, HAPTA's Legislative Chair at 808-221-4001 for further information.

CHARLES M. LEPKOWSKY, PH.D.  
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST PSY 9118  
1143 DEER TRAIL LANE, SOLVANG, CALIFORNIA 93463-9519  
TELEPHONE: (805) 688-1229 FACSIMILE: (805) 686-9382  
E-MAIL: CLEPKOWSKY@GMAIL.COM

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am a licensed psychologist in Hawai'i. For over 35 years I have treated adults, families, adolescents, and children.

I am writing to endorse SB221, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211.



Charles M. Lepkowsky, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist PSY 1529

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

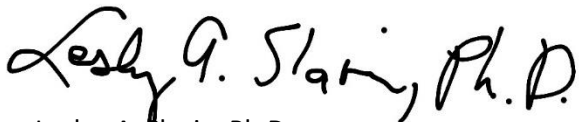
I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

There is strong research evidence to support the idea that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley A. Slavin, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley A. Slavin, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist  
317C Olomana Street  
Kailua, HI 96734



**Michael A. Kellar, Psy.D.**  
*Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine*  
*Fellow, Royal Society for the Promotion of Health*  
*Fellow, Royal Anthropologic Society*

26 February 2018

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**  
February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

**From:** [Christina Uemura](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 4:42:46 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Sincerely,

Christina Uemura



**From:** [Richard Kappenberg](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 4:33:44 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Sincerely,  
Richard P. Kappenberg, Ph.D., ABMPP  
e

**From:** [Ivan Irie](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 4:25:22 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.



**WAIMĀNALO**  
HEALTH CENTER

41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Highway  
Waimānalo, Hawai'i, 96795-1247

**Ivan Irie, Psy.D.**  
*Primary Care Psychologist*

Main: (808) 259-7948 | Fax: (808) 259-6602  
[website](#) | [map](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This Email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**SB-2211-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:21:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.



Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.

Hawai'i Licensed Clinical Psychologist

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to endorse SB2211 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.  
Past President, Hawaii Psychological Association  
Director of Social and Emotional Health, 'Iolani School

**From:** [William Tsushima](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB 221  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 8:36:50 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

February 26, 2018

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

I am Dr. William Tsushima, a clinical neuropsychologist consultant with the Hawai'i Concussion Awareness and Management Program. For the past 8 years I have been evaluating the neuropsychological test results of the high school athletes in Hawai'i, and also have published eight research articles pertaining to the effects of sports concussions.

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Linda Hufano, Ph.D.  
Hawaii Licensed Psychologist  
and Executive Director  
Alaka'i Na Keiki, Inc.  
1100 Alakea St., Suite 900  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



**From:** [Lyle Herman, Psy.D.](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB2211 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 10:25:50 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1  
February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

As a psychologist who has had many opportunities to work with our state's youth and who knows

many youth who have been injured I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

Lyle Herman, Psy.D.  
1188 Bishop St., #3102  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Tel: 808-545-4585  
Fax: 1-877-631-6362  
[www.drlyleherman.com](http://www.drlyleherman.com)

*"There are moments when troubles enter our lives and we can do nothing to avoid them. But they are there for a reason. Only when we have overcome them will we understand why they were there." - P. Coelho*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

This e-mail message (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521, and is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please reply to the sender that you have received this message in error, and then delete it. Thank you for helping to maintain privacy.



**From:** [June Ching](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB2211 SD1  
**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2018 11:16:54 PM

---

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2211 SD1**

February 28, 2018, 10:45 am, Room 211

I am writing to endorse SB221 SD1, which expands the concussion educational program and regulations removing injured athletes from game play established under Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and expanded under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

Research demonstrates that even non-concussive head impacts can cause permanent brain damage. Young athletes can experience hundreds of head impacts during a single season of play. Participation in youth sports programs creates a significant risk of permanent brain damage that can lead to clinical depression, behavioral regulation difficulties, and cognitive impairment later in life. The risk for such impairment is correlated with earlier starting ages for participation in youth sports programs.

SB2211 SD1 will protect the long-term health and welfare of children and young adults by expanding the scope of existing legislation to include all youth athletes, regardless of age.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2211 SD1.

June W J Ching, PhD, ABPP  
1833 Kalakaua Ave, Suite 800  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
Ph: (808) 949-9502