



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

Date: 02/08/2017
Time: 03:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0720 RELATING TO THE CONCUSSION PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Makes an appropriation for the concussion education and monitoring program for school athletics and youth athletic activities.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 720. This measure recognizes the importance of concussion educational programs for youth and concussion testing for high school student athletes, and provides funding to continue this worthy program.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 720.



Hawaii High School Athletic Association

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February 7, 2017

S.B. No. 720 Relating to the Concussion Program

I, Christopher Chun, Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association ("HHSAA"), on behalf of HHSAA support S.B. No. 720 relating to the concussion program. The HHSAA governs high school varsity coaches and student-athletes. This Bill provides continued funding of its predecessor, Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Act 262 has successfully impacted the lives of over one hundred fifty thousand student-athletes in Hawaii by ensuring all high school coaches are concussion certified, and our student-athletes are protected by baseline testing.

Class action lawsuits in Illinois and Pennsylvania on behalf of former high school student-athletes allege high schools have a duty among other things to conduct baseline testing. This is something that Hawaii high schools have provided since 2010. Moreover, this Bill ensures that Hawaii's student-athletes will continue to be protected through 2019.

In 2016, the Parents Concussion Coalition rated Hawaii as one of only four states to be commended in taking proactive steps toward protecting its student-athletes in regards to concussion safety.

S.B. No. 720 will 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.

Testimony for SB 720

Feb 8, 2017 Conference Room 229

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association (HATA) supports SB 720, Relating to Concussions. This bill continues concussion education and awareness to the youth sports level and creates a funding mechanism to sustain the program that was implemented with ACT 197 and its successor ACT 262. 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.

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 3:16 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB720 on Feb 8, 2017 15:15PM*

SB720

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for EDU/HRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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