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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that concussions or mild  
2 traumatic brain injuries sustained by children and adolescents  
3 frequently occur in a variety of sports and recreational  
4 activities, such as football, soccer, bicycling, and  
5 skateboarding. In October 2011, the Centers for Disease Control  
6 and Prevention reported that the number of traumatic brain  
7 injury-related emergency department visits in this country by  
8 persons nineteen years old or younger that were related to  
9 sports and recreational activities increased from 153,375 in  
10 2001 to 248,418 in 2009. In this State, the department of  
11 education's athletic health care trainers program also noted an  
12 increase in the number of reported concussions, from two hundred  
13 thirteen in the 2007-2008 school year to four hundred forty-six  
14 in the 2010-2011 school year.

15           The marked increase in national and state concussion  
16 statistics may be attributed at least in part to an increased  
17 awareness of the dangers of concussions by the people involved  
18 in sports activities. The department of education began its



1 concussion management program in 2011 to educate coaches,  
2 parents, and athletic trainers and provide care for students.  
3 The legislature finds, however, that a statewide concussion  
4 educational program is necessary to ensure that public and  
5 private high school students, school personnel, and parents are  
6 provided with consistent and up-to-date information on  
7 concussions and management of symptoms and injuries relating to  
8 a concussion.

9 The purposes of this Act are to:

- 10 (1) Require the department of education and the Hawaii  
11 High School Athletic Association to develop a  
12 concussion educational program for students and  
13 student athletes who are fourteen to eighteen years  
14 old. The program shall include:
- 15 (A) Education of students, student athletes, parents,  
16 sports officials, school faculty and staff, and  
17 school administrators of the signs and symptoms  
18 of a concussion and what to do if someone  
19 demonstrates any of these signs or symptoms;
- 20 (B) An annual educational session for coaches and  
21 athletic trainers about the signs and symptoms of  
22 a concussion;



1 (C) The need for the mandatory removal of a student  
2 from the athletic activity that the student is  
3 participating in if the student demonstrates any  
4 signs or symptoms of a concussion; and

5 (D) The need for a concussed student's physician to  
6 evaluate the student and determine whether the  
7 student is able to return to a particular  
8 athletic activity.

9 SECTION 2. As used in this Act, the following definitions  
10 apply:

11 "Coach" means a paid or volunteer coach.

12 "Concussion" or "mild traumatic brain injury" is a  
13 pathophysiological process affecting the brain, caused by  
14 traumatic biomechanical forces.

15 "Licensed health care professional" means an advanced  
16 practice registered nurse, certified or registered athletic  
17 trainer, neuropsychologist, physician assistant, physician, or  
18 osteopathic physician trained in the management of sports  
19 concussions.

20 "School athletics" means athletic events sanctioned by the  
21 Hawaii High School Athletic Association.



1 SECTION 3. The department of education and the Hawaii High  
2 School Athletic Association shall develop a concussion  
3 educational program that shall include:

4 (1) Educating students, parents, sports officials, school  
5 faculty, coaches, and staff, and school administrators  
6 about the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the  
7 procedures to follow if a person displays any of the  
8 signs or symptoms of a concussion;

9 (2) Annual educational sessions about the signs and  
10 symptoms of a concussion for coaches and athletic  
11 trainers;

12 (3) The need for the mandatory removal of a student from  
13 the athletic activity that the student is  
14 participating in, if the student demonstrates any  
15 signs and symptoms of a concussion;

16 (4) The need for a concussed student's licensed health  
17 care provider to evaluate the student and determine  
18 whether the student is able to return to a particular  
19 athletic activity; and

20 (5) The monitoring of a student's return to physical  
21 activity by the school's certified athletic trainer,  
22 if an athletic trainer is employed by the school.



1            This return to activity plan is to be based upon peer-  
2            review scientific evidence, such as that from the  
3            National Athletic Trainer Association or Centers for  
4            Disease Control and Prevention.

5            SECTION 4. Educational guidelines for development of a  
6            high school concussion awareness program. There shall be an  
7            educational program developed for every public and private  
8            school that is a member of the Hawaii High School Athletic  
9            Association on how to develop a school's concussion awareness  
10           plan. Every program shall require:

- 11           (1) Annual concussion awareness training for coaches,  
12           administrators, faculty, staff, and sports officials,  
13           including:
- 14           (A) The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
  - 15           (B) The need to obtain proper medical attention for a  
16           person suspected of having a concussion;
  - 17           (C) Information on the nature and risk of  
18           concussions, including the danger of continuing  
19           to play after sustaining a concussion and the  
20           proper method of allowing a student who has  
21           sustained a concussion to return to activity;



1           (2) Annual concussion awareness education for parents and  
2           students who participate in a school's athletic team  
3           or programs or both. The parents and students shall  
4           sign a concussion information sheet that they have  
5           attended and received this concussion awareness  
6           education;

7           (3) Immediate removal from a game, practice, or other  
8           activity of any student who exhibits signs, symptoms,  
9           or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as  
10          loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion,  
11          or balance problems. The student shall not return to  
12          the activity until cleared to do so by a licensed  
13          health care professional; and

14          (4) The student to obtain written clearance from a  
15          physician prior to returning to academics and  
16          athletics, which:

17                (A) States that the student is capable of resuming  
18                participation in a particular sport;

19                (B) May require the student to follow a plan designed  
20                to aid the student to recover and resume  
21                participation in school and athletic activities  
22                that:

- 1 (i) Includes, as appropriate, periods of
- 2 cognitive and physical rest while symptoms
- 3 of a concussion persist; and
- 4 (ii) Reintroduces cognitive and physical demands
- 5 on the student on a progressive basis to
- 6 prevent the reemergence or worsening of
- 7 symptoms of a concussion; and
- 8 (C) Requires that the student's return to physical
- 9 activity be monitored by the school's certified
- 10 athletic trainer, if an athletic trainer is
- 11 employed by the school.

12 SECTION 5. The department of education shall submit a  
13 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
14 convening of the regular session of 2013 on the development and  
15 implementation of the concussion educational program.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2012



# H.B. NO. 2273

**Report Title:**

Concussions; Concussion Awareness Program; School Athletics

**Description:**

Requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

