



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

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and

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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 9th to 12th. 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.