



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By  
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and  
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### SB 2211 SD2 – RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) supports the intent of the SB 2211 SD2, 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, if not the first, state 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 the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. There are well over 20 different youth sports all which have a potential risk for sustaining a concussion from collision sports such as football, rugby and motor cross to non-contact sports such as cheerleading, track and volleyball. Obtaining contact information for these sports administrators has been the Department's leading obstacle. Furthermore, the COE would like to decrease its, and the state's, potential liability 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. Amend SB 2211 SD2, to maintain ninth (ACT 262) grade instead of third grade for school athletics and maintain 11 years old (ACT 262) instead of 8 years old for youth athletics. A Department of Health Neurotrauma report for 2012-2016 indicated the ages with the highest rates of TBI in Hawai'i were 0-4 years old and 14-19 years old.
2. 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.

3. Delay implementation to age 8 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.