



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
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By
Donald B. Young, Dean and Professor
College of Education
and
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2557 SD2 – RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2557 SD1.

The College of Education supports SB 2557 SD1, however we would suggest recommended changes to include cognitive testing for youth athletic activities.

Cognitive testing. Specific to page 7 (#5) “*Cognitive testing of participants prior to the start of each season of school athletics or a youth athletic activity.*” We strongly recommend the removal of youth athletic activity receiving cognitive testing. Cognitive testing, while important for high school student athletes, is not feasible to provide to youth athletic activity groups. First, there are no athletic trainers (or designated person) at this level to assist with cognitive testing implementation, data collection, documenting and monitoring. Second, the cost associated with providing cognitive testing to youth activity groups is prohibitive. At present, cognitive testing is done at the high schools only. At each public high school, certified athletic trainers assist with implementing, monitoring, data collection and documenting cognitive testing for their respective schools for student athletes. We recommend to continue cognitive testing for students in grades 9th through 12th. We would also recommend that the youth athletic activities receive concussion education and awareness only as stipulated in #2 page 5 of bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2257 SD1.