



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Higher Education and
Committee On Education
March 17, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

by
Carl R. Clapp
Associate Director of Athletics
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 40 RELATING TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Chairs Chang and Takumi, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Berg, and members of the Committees:

I am Carl Clapp, Associate Director of Athletics for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am presenting testimony for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in support of HCR 40 relating to Athletic Trainers. We are aware that the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) and the Hawai'i Athletic Trainers Association support the licensing of athletic trainers and that approximately 33 states currently require licensing with several more considering requiring licensing of athletic trainers.

Our understanding is that the athletic trainers at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are compliance with the requirements of this bill. Athletic Trainers hired by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are required to have the qualifications listed in the Senate Bill including the following:

1. Have a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited four-year college or university,
2. Have successfully completed the NATA Board of Certification Examination, and
3. Be certified by the NATA.

With the significant participation in youth sports and the high participation in physical activity of our adult population in Hawai'i the risk for injury rises as well. That is where the Certified Athletic Trainer (AT) comes in. Whether it is an athlete of any age, a worker performing physical tasks or even an average citizen delving in to recreational activities, the AT can help.

ATs are highly qualified healthcare professionals educated in preventing, recognizing, managing and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity. ATs can help you avoid unnecessary medical treatment and disruption of normal daily life. If you're

injured, they are trained to work with your healthcare provider to get you on the mend and keep you on the move.

Athletic training is recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) as an allied healthcare profession, and the AMA recommends ATs in every high school to keep America's youth safe and healthy. Specifically, the Board of Certification Certified Athletic Trainer has demonstrated knowledge and skill in six practice areas or domains:

- Prevention
- Clinical Evaluation and Diagnosis
- Immediate Care
- Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reconditioning
- Organization and Administration
- Professional Responsibility

As part of a complete healthcare team, the AT works under the direction of a physician and in cooperation with other healthcare professionals, athletic administrators, coaches and parents. The AT gets to know each patient individually and can treat injuries more effectively.

It is important that we make sure that all of our athletic trainers in Hawai'i have the appropriate education, training and certification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.