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SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES AND TRAINERS TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE INJURIES TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES.

WHEREAS, athletic competition and sporting events have always been a favored extracurricular activity for the youth of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, there recently have been many more opportunities for girls and young women to participate in these various athletic and sporting activities than in the past; and

WHEREAS, in addition to taking the older more traditional sports to a higher level of expertise and competence, there has been a plethora in the offering of various new and different types of sports; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the continued popularity of longtime favorites like football, basketball, baseball, and track, soccer, volleyball, boys' and girls' wrestling, girl's softball and basketball, swimming, water polo, and diving, have increased in popularity, and many schools have added surfing, golf, paddling, cheerleading, and other offerings to their sports programs; and

WHEREAS, many of these newer sports and disciplines require a higher level of expertise and knowledge on the coaching and training level; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, but inevitably, the higher participation in sporting activities by high school youth has also raised the incidence of injury, sometimes serious and permanent; and

WHEREAS, to the extent practicable, these sports injuries should be avoided, limited, and minimized; and

WHEREAS, with proper training, knowledge, and vigilance on the part of coaches, trainers, and athletic departments personnel, many sports injuries can be kept to a minimum or avoided altogether; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Department of Education is requested to establish a Task Force with the objective of creating a program to educate, train, and assist high school coaches, trainers, and athletic departments to avoid and minimize injuries to high school athletes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that the Task Force include but not be limited to:

(1) The Superintendent of Education or the Superintendent's designated representative;

(2) One member of the Board of Education to be designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Education;

(3) The Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office;

(4) One member of the Charter School Review Panel to be designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Education;

(5) One athletic director from each of the Department of Education's school complex areas;

(6) One high school coach from each of the Department of Education's school complex areas;

(7) One athletic director of a charter school;

(8) The Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association or the Executive Director's designated representative, who shall be requested to serve;

(9) A representative from the University of Hawaii at Manoa Athletic Department;

SR LRB 10-2058.doc

(10) One sports medicine professional practitioner with a degree equivalent to a bachelor of science or masters degree in physical training, exercise science, or kinesiology or a medical degree from an accredited university in the United States, to be requested to serve by the Superintendent of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to select a chairperson from its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to create a mandatory program for the education and training of high school coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and members of high school athletic departments in the prevention, avoidance, and minimization of injuries to high school athletes, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Identifying certain exercises or routine warm up drills that may be outdated or detrimental to young athletes:

(2) Identifying deficiencies or traits in certain individual athletes that may evidence the presence or onset of any early injury or the likelihood of early injury; and

(3) Educating coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers on ways to identify and treat these early signs of potential injuries; and making coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers aware of the availability of programs and treatments offered by advanced professional and non-professional physical therapists and trainers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall submit a report, including recommendations and proposed legislation to this body not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office, the Athletic Director

SR LRB 10-2058.doc

of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

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OFFERED BY:

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