

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ DIRECTOR

EVERETT KANESHIGE

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. Box 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850 Fax Number: 586-2856 www.hawaii.gov/dcca

PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

AND

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 155, S.D. 2, RELATING TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S. C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

Proposed 41

My name is Celia Suzuki, Acting Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("Division"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"). The Division appreciates the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 155, S.D. 2, Relating to Athletic Trainers.

The bill proposes to regulate the practice of athletic training by requiring athletic trainers to be registered with the DCCA. Should this proposal advance in the Legislature, we would like to mention that the athletic trainers will bear the burden of

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 155, S.D. 2 Wednesday, March 16, 2011 Page 2

subsidizing the program through fees, the cost of the DCCA's resources to start-up, to implement, and to maintain this new program. We have attached a Proposed H.D. 1 for your Committees' consideration. The Proposed H.D. 1 contains placeholder provisions relating to additional manpower and funding that the department foresees it will need should the bill pass for DCCA to implement.

This bill also provides that this act shall take effect on July 1, 2050. We request that should this bill pass, the effective date be that of July 1, 2012, to allow us sufficient time to ensure a smooth and efficient transition for the regulation of athletic trainers. A one year delayed effective date has been consistently supported by the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 155, S.D. 2.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING'TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 2.

"S -10 Fees; disposition. Application fees paid

pursuant to this chapter shall not be refundable. Pursuant to

section 26-9(1), the director shall establish registration,

renewal, restoration, penalty and other fees relating to the

administration of this chapter. Fees assessed pursuant to this

chapter shall be used to defray costs incurred by the department

in implementing this chapter.

S -11 Renewal of registration; fees. Registrations
shall be renewed, upon the payment of a renewal fee, triennially
not earlier than ninety days before June 30. Failure to renew a
registration shall result in a forfeiture of the registration.
Registrations that have been forfeited may be restored within
one year of the expiration date upon payment of renewal and
restoration fees. Failure to restore a registration within one
year of the date of its expiration shall result in the automatic
termination of the registration and the person may be required

to reapply for registration as a new applicant. All renewal and restoration fees shall be determined by the director."

"S26H-4 Repeal dates for newly enacted professional and vocational regulatory programs. (a) Any professional or vocational regulatory program enacted after January 1, 1994, and listed in this section shall be repealed as specified in this section. The auditor shall perform an evaluation of the program, pursuant to section 26H-5, prior to its repeal date.

(b) Chapter (athletic trainers) shall be repealed on June 30, 2018."

SECTION 4. The department of commerce and consumer affairs may employ necessary personnel without regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to assist with the implementation and continuing functions of this chapter.

SECTION 5. Upon the issuance of a new registration and at each registration renewal period, each athletic trainer shall pay an additional fee (surcharge) of \$_____, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii Revised Statutes. At the end of each quarter, the moneys

contained in the separate account established pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the compliance resolution fund until such time that the total transferred amounts equal to the amount appropriated in section 6 of this Act. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds in excess of the amount appropriated in section 6 of this Act shall be deposited in the compliance resolution fund.

Section 6. There is appropriated out of the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$40,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012, to implement the athletic trainers registration program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

Section 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012; provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on approval; and provided further that section 6 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

S.B. NO. 5.D. 2

Proposed H.D. 1

Report Title:

Athletic Trainers; Registration

Description:

Creates registration requirements and qualifications for athletic trainers in this State; provides exemptions; prescribes penalties. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE

BRIAN SCHATZ

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. Box 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 Phone Number: 586-2850 Fax Number: 586-2856

www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ DIRECTOR

EVERETT KANESHIGE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

AND

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2011

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011 2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 155 S.D.2
RELATING TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, VICE CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 155 S.D.2, Relating to Athletic Trainers. My name is Jo Ann Uchida of the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO does not support this bill in its current form and offers the following comments.

Senate Bill No. 155, S.D. 2, creates a new regulatory program for athletic trainers that is based solely on certification from the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. ("BOC"). In other words, if the athletic trainer meets BOC's certification and educational requirements, state registration would be granted. This regulatory framework is unlike any other in the Department. RICO has had an opportunity to review BOC's Standards of Professional Practice and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Code of Ethics and has obtained some background information about BOC's disciplinary procedures.

RICO recommends that additional language be included in this bill that provides, among other things, grounds for registration denial or restriction and disciplinary action, penalties for violations of the chapter, exemptions for routine first aid and for training by the patient, automatic forfeiture for failing to maintain BOC certification, a reporting requirement by employers, clarification of the supervision requirements of treating physicians, and the payment of fees to administer the program. This language will assist RICO in adequately enforcing the program's requirements and aid the Department in its oversight of the program.

RICO would be willing to work with the various stakeholders on language that would address its concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 155 S.D.2. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committees may have.

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce House Committee on Judiciary
March 16, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

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

SB155, SD2 RELATING TO ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Chairs Herkes and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Yamane and Rhoads, 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 in <u>support</u> of SB155 SD2 relating to Athletic Trainers. We are aware that the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) and the Hawai'i Athletic Trainers Association support the registration of athletic trainers and that Hawaii is one of only a few states that does not require athletic trainers to be registered.

Athletic trainers at the University of Hawai'i are in compliance with the requirements of this bill including the following:

- 1. Having an unencumbered certification from the National Athletic Training Association (NATA) Board of Certification; and
- 2. Receiving direction for their work from a physician.

The Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) was incorporated in 1989 to provide a certification program for entry-level Athletic Trainers (ATs). The BOC establishes and regularly reviews both the standards for the practice of athletic training and the continuing education requirements for BOC Certified ATs. The BOC has the only accredited certification program for ATs in the US.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa offers an Entry-Level Graduate Athletic Training Education Program to prepare graduate students to become BOC Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC) and scholarly practitioners in the athletic training profession.

We do request one amendment be made in the section entitled "Practice of athletic training." Line 4 currently reads

(4) Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

We ask that it be amended to say

(4) <u>Treat</u>, Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

This change reflects the standardized wording of the domains of athletic training from the Board of Certification and the domains that have been accepted as professional practice by the American Medical Association. The omission of the word treat would create a gap in the continuum of care. Treatment includes such things as application of ice packs and moist heat packs, use of whirlpools, and application of specialized taping and bracing. Treating injuries and conditions has always been a central component of athletic healthcare. As a reminder, athletic trainers work under the direction of a treating physician and would be performing tasks that are approved by physicians as standards of care.

Athletic training is recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) as an allied healthcare profession, and the AMA recommends athletic trainers in every high school to keep America's youth safe and healthy. Specifically, the 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

SB 155 SD2 requires that Athletic Trainers register with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs by providing the athletic trainer's name, business address, and a current and unencumbered certification from the Board of Certification, Inc. This will ensure that those practicing athletic training in Hawai'i have been certified by the BOC; the BOC certifies that entry level athletic trainers have received the necessary education and training and that certified athletic trainers complete appropriate continuing education requirements. The University of Hawai'i's practice in the past, and going forward, is to employ individuals that are Certified by the BOC and eligible for registration in the State of Hawai'i.

We support this bill because it requires individuals that practice athletic training in Hawaii to receive the appropriate education and training that prepares them to sit for the BOC certification exam, to pass the exam, and to present an unencumbered certification from the BOC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



JOY GOLD UNLIMITED

Working with you to achieve your organization's mission and public policy goals

To:

House CPC Committee Staff

From:

Joy Gold

Subject:

Withdrawal of Submitted HAPTA Testimony, SB 155dsd2 and

Replacement with Amended Testimony

Hse CPC/JUD Hearing, Weds, March 16, 2011

Room 325 - 2:00 pm

Copy:

Ann Frost, HAPTA

Date:

March 15, 2011 - Hand Delivered to Rep. Bob Herkes, Room 320

I am requesting your assistance in withdrawing the March 14, 2011 electronically submitted testimony for the Hawaii Chapter American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), SB 155sd2. For your convenience and reference, I have attached a copy of the email cover sheet and testimony for withdrawal.

In its place, please use the amended testimony that is attached to this memo. I have attached an original and copy, as requested on the hearing notice.

I apologize for the inconvenience this has caused. I can be reached at 526-3770 if there are any questions. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Union Plaza 1136 Union Mall, Ste. 403 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 P.O. Box 88555 Honolulu, Hawaii 96830-8555 Phone: 808-526-3770 Fax: 808-540-0415

Email: joy@joygoldunlimited.com

Visit www.joygoldunlimited.com

Testimony by: Ann Frost, PT SB 155sd2, Relating to Athletic Trainers Hse CPC/JUD, Weds, March 16, 2011 Room 325, 2:00 pm



Position: Support

Chairs Herkes and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Hse CPC/JDU Committees:

I am Ann Frost, P.T., President of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) and member of HAPTA's Legislative Committee. HAPTA represents 1400 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health (DOH) systems, and private clinics throughout our community. Physical therapists work with everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Physical therapy services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments, improving wellness, and teaching prevention.

HAPTA, HATA (Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association) and OTAH (Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii) have discussed this issue since the 2010 Session. We understand that all three organizations are in support of SB 155sd2.

HAPTA appreciates the inclusion of definitions for "athlete" and "athletic injury". These definitions recognize the specific population that certified athletic trainers are educated and trained to work with, primarily people who are preparing for or participating in competitive sports activities. While these definitions may seem superfluous, they are necessary since without the definition of who and what athletic trainers treat, there may be lack of understanding of their scope of practice. Since they have clearly indicated on a national level that they intend to expand their scope of practice, and because their current educational requirements prepare them to treat only athletes with athletic injuries, this language will help protect the public.

HAPTA appreciates the language on page 7, (6) lines 9-13, which clearly delineates the practices of physical therapists, occupational therapists and athletic trainers.

Ultimately, the physical therapy community is committed to health care provided by health care practitioners within their scope of education and training. We support regulation of allied health professionals' scope of practice based on a national, standardized training curriculum to ensure that the consumers are receiving appropriate and safe care.

I can be reached at 382-2655 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Testimony by:
Avis Sakata, OTR
SB 155sd2, Athletic Trainers
Hse CPC/JUD Hearing — Weds. March 16, 2011
Room 325 — 2:00 pm

Position: Support

Chairs Herkes and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Hse CPC and JUD Committees:

I am Avis Sakata, OTR and president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, prisons, skilled nursing to private facilities and community-based programs.

Occupational Therapy is a science driven, evidenced-based profession that enables people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent or live better with illness, injury or disability. Occupational Therapists are recognized members of the Healthcare Rehabilitation team which is comprised also of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, social workers and others. As a healthcare provider, OTs provide, but are not limited to: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients/clients needs and development of an appropriate treatment plan, 2) interventions focused on daily living skills (including self-care), work readiness, play or educational performance skills, 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular functioning, cognitive or psychosocial components.

OTAH is pleased to join in agreement with the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association about SB 155sd2. We strongly support SB 155sd2 because as written, it provides consumer protection from unqualified practitioners and protects qualified practitioners' rights to provide services. We agree with HATA that there is the potential for athletic trainers who have been censored in other states to practice in Hawaii and in the worst case scenario, an individual could set up his/her own practice and state that they provide athletic trainer services when in fact he/she may not have the professional qualifications which would definitely lead to consumer harm.

The inclusion of definitions for "athlete" and "athletic injury" clearly state that the specific population that benefits from the existing education and training requirements of certified and registered athletic trainers will be assured of appropriate treatment.

<u>Further, much appreciation</u> is expressed for the language on page 7, lines 9-13, which provides clarity that the practice of athletic training does not include the provision of occupational therapy services as defined in section 457G-1 or physical therapy or physical therapy services as defined in 461J-1.

Your <u>support</u> of SB155sd2 is urged. I can be reached at 522-4602 if further information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Testimony to the House Consumer Commerce and Protection Committee And Judiciary Committee Regarding SB 155 SD2 Relating to Athletic Trainers

Position: Strongly Support

To Chair Herkes, Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B NO. 155 S.D. 2. My name is Cedric K. Akau. I am a board certified physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and in Sports Medicine. In addition to being member of the Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at the Straub Clinic and Hospital for the past 24 years I have been an associate team physician at the University of Hawai'i and I am currently one of the team physicians at the Punahou School. I am also a former member of the State Board of Physical Therapy.

Over the past 24 years, I have worked closely with Certified Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. Based on my experience, I would recommend that the definition regarding the "Practice of athletic training" should include the recognition, diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, and the rehabilitation of athletic injuries and illnesses.

Should you have any questions please feel free to call me at 522-3879. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cedric K. Akau, M.D., M.P.H.

Testimony of Michelle Cleary PhD, ATC in strong support of SB 155 SD2

To: Chairmen Robert Herkes and Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and on Judiciary:

As Program Director of the nationally accredited entry-level graduate Athletic Training Education Program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 155 SD2. In agreement with the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA), I request one amendment in the section entitled "Practice of athletic training". Line 4 currently reads:

(4) Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

I ask that it be amended to read:

(4) Treat, Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

Based on the educational preparation and national Board of Certification requirements, Athletic trainers are highly educated health care professionals who have graduated from a nationally accredited program and passed a national board certification examination. The athletic trainer's professional preparation is based on the development of specified educational competencies and clinical proficiencies. Through a combination of formal classroom and clinical instruction and clinical experience, the athletic trainer is prepared to treat athletic injuries within each of the following content areas (National Athletic Trainers' Association, 4th Edition, 2005):

- Risk management and injury prevention
- Acute care of injury and illness
- Therapeutic modalities
- Conditioning and rehabilitative exercise
- Pathology of injuries and illnesses
- Orthopedic clinical examination and diagnosis
- Medical conditions and disabilities
- Nutritional aspects of injury and illness
- Psychosocial intervention and referral
- Health care administration
- Pharmacology
- Professional development and responsibility

The rationale for this change is that "treating" athletic injuries is a large part of our scope of practice. In the University of Hawaii program, Athletic Trainers have 2 years (4 semesters or 23 credits) of coursework focusing entirely on recognition and treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and general medical conditions. These courses in the curriculum include the following:

-KRS 415 Prevention & Care of Athletic Injuries (3 credits)

-KRS 420 Lower Extremity Assessment (3 credits)

-KRS 421 Upper Extremity Assessment (3 credits) '

-KRS 615 Head, Neck, & Spine Assessment (3 credits)

-KRS 617 Therapeutic Modalities (4 credits)

-KRS 618 Therapeutic Exercise (4 credits)

-KRS 619 General Medical Conditions (3 credits)

Further, recognizing and "treating" musculoskeletal injury and general medical conditions is a large part (63%) of the Board of Certification Examination consisting of the following percent of questions on the examination (BOC Exam Candidate Handbook, 2007):

-Clinical Evaluation and Diagnosis (22%)

-Immediate and Emergency Care (19%)

-Treatment and Rehabilitation (22%).

Therefore, we respectfully request the abovementioned amendment to accurately reflect treatment in the Athletic Trainers' educational preparation and certification. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Respectfully submitted.

Michelle A. Cleary PhD, ATC, Associate Professor
Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator
University of Hawaii, Entry-Level Graduate Athletic Training Education Program
Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences
1337 Lower Campus Road, Office: KP B-108
Honolulu, HI 96822

Email: mcleary@hawaii.edu

Phone: 808-956-6040 Fax: 808-956-7976 Testimony of Cindy Clivio on behalf of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers (HATA) in strong support of SB 155 SD2

To: Chairmen Robert Herkes and Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the House Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and on Judiciary:

My name is Cindy Clivio and I am testifying for the members of the Hawaii Association of Athletic Trainers (HATA) in **strong support** of SB 155 SD2

The Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) is the professional membership association for Certified Athletic Trainers in our state. Certified Athletic Trainers are health care providers who specialize in the prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses of athletes participating in various athletic events in Hawaii. The University of Hawaii-Manoa offers a graduate entry level degree in Athletic Training. Athletic Trainers are employed in most of Hawaii's public schools, some private schools, colleges, Universities, hospitals, physician offices, clinics, and by the military. Hawaii is considered a leader in providing healthcare at the Secondary School level as the legislature provided funds to place a certified athletic trainer in all of Hawaii's public schools.

HATA feels that the language in SB 155 SD2 addresses the concerns by other groups that were raised on HB 337 and the earlier version of SB 155. Our association has been in talks with DCCA and RICO to further clarify and strengthen the language of the bill in terms of the regulatory scheme and fee payment schedule as well as enforcement issues. We would support amendments suggested by both DCCA and RICO.

HATA does ask that one amendment be made in the section entitled "Practice of athletic training" line 4 currently reads

(4) Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

We ask that it be amended to say

(4) Treat, Rehabilitate, and recondition athletic injuries;

This change reflects the standardized wording of the domains of athletic training from our Board of Certification and the domains that have been accepted as professional practice by the American Medical Association. The omission of the word treat would create a gap in the continuum of care. Under the current wording we would be able to provide an assessment and immediate care and then administer a rehabilitation protocol when the condition permits but would not be able to provide treatment to alleviate pain in the interim and for ongoing care. Treatment includes such things application of ice packs and moist heat packs, use of whirlpools, and application of specialized taping and bracing. The DOE Athletic Trainers documented the following amounts of treatments during the Fall season of 2009 Total counts for taping 42,1123

total count for first aid treatment 4424

total count for Rehab 12,455

total Ice 29,558

total whirlpool 700

total hot packs 2666

total Estim 780 and Ultrasound 92

Total number of treatments 122,109 for 23216 athletes

As you can see treatment is an integral part of services that are currently provided on a daily basis. Treating injuries and conditions has always been a central component of athletic healthcare. It is

validated in our role delineation, core to our educational competencies, and is tested extensively in our National Certification exam. Please remember that athletic trainers work under the direction of a treating physician and would be performing tasks that are approved by physicians as standards of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the members of HATA.

Testimony of Jennifer King, D.O. on behalf of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

In Support of SB155; Athletic trainers

The Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee supports SB155 as written. In most states, Athletic Trainers are part of the medical care team for athletes and also act as physician extenders in the medical office setting. Athletic trainers receive comprehensive training on evaluating and managing musculoskeletal injuries. The first step to allow athletic trainers to be officially recognized as a provider is for them to have the ability to secure a license. This also ensures that the athletic trainers that are practicing are competent and obtaining continuing education to maintain their certification.

In the high school setting, athletic trainers are integral in providing daily medical access to injured athletes. This ensures that athletes stay safe playing their sport. They also take the lead in injury prevention, including formulating emergency action plans for the school. Keeping the school age population active in sports promotes a healthy lifestyle for a lifetime.

The Hawai'i High School Athletic Association ad hoc Sports Medicine Advisory Committee would propose to support this bill.

Jennifer King D.O.