HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC DEADLINE FOR EVALUATING CONCUSSED STUDENTS' NEED FOR CLASSROOM LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS AND A TIMELINE FOR A CONCUSSION EVALUATION TO OCCUR.

WHEREAS, Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, called attention to traumatic brain injuries in student athletes and recognized the need for standardized concussion awareness education and protocols for treating concussed student athletes across the State; and

WHEREAS, Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, amended Act 197 to expand the statewide concussion education program in significant ways, in particular, by recognizing the importance of accommodating concussed students' reduced cognitive abilities through classroom learning adjustments; and

WHEREAS, Department of Education high schools rely on athletic health care trainers to initiate the evaluation process for a concussed student's needs for classroom learning accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has instituted its own concussion management program based on prevailing national standards for athletic trainers and concussion guidelines; and

WHEREAS, neither the Department of Education's current concussion management procedures nor Hawaii's concussion law appear to address a specific deadline for school personnel to commence evaluation of a concussed student's need for classroom learning accommodations; and

WHEREAS, neither the Department of Education's current concussion management procedures nor Hawaii's concussion law

H.C.R. NO. 4

appear to establish a timeline for a concussion evaluation to follow; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to establish:

(1) A specific deadline by which athletic health care trainers evaluations must commence; and

(2) A timeline for a concussion evaluation to follow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the specific timeframe and timeline is requested to be established through an internal Board of Education policy or the administrative rulemaking process pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Education, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

OFFERED BY:

Gother Thieles

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