



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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 support 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) Treat, 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.