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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEDICAL AND BRAIN INJURY EXPERTS, TO WORK WITH THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE CONCUSSION PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ATHLETES.

1           WHEREAS, closed head injuries, also known as concussions,  
2 are a serious and growing public health issue for athletes  
3 involved in contact sports; and  
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5           WHEREAS, mild concussions can be difficult to detect and,  
6 along with more serious head injuries, can have long-term  
7 effects such as memory loss, impairments in attention, and motor  
8 deficits; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the culture of playing through pain or "toughing  
11 it out" can put athletes at risk, and allowing an athlete to  
12 return to play too early after a concussion increases the chance  
13 of more serious brain injury; and  
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15           WHEREAS, concussions have a cumulative effect and each  
16 concussion makes a person more vulnerable to another concussion;  
17 and  
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19           WHEREAS, when a second concussion follows shortly after an  
20 initial one, it can cause rapid brain swelling that can result  
21 in coma or even death in rare cases; and  
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23           WHEREAS, recent research reveals that multiple concussions  
24 may also lead to clinical depression; and  
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26           WHEREAS, five to eight per cent of athletes in state public  
27 high school suffer concussions each year; and  
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29           WHEREAS, at the high school level, football is the riskiest  
30 sport when it comes to concussions, followed by girls soccer;  
31 and  
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