

Testimony in Support of SB 2348

Aloha. My name is Mark Coronese. I am a resident of Maui, an involved member of my Kihei Community, the President of SkyShades Hawaii, Inc. a custom Shade and Recreation Company and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

- I have two young children, ages 4 and 6, and their schools have little to no shade protection during recreation, meeting and waiting times.
- I also have very dear friends that are undergoing treatment for skin cancer. There is a possibility that this may have been prevented had their parents and teachers been aware of the risks they were being exposed to when they were children.
- For all of these reasons, I am here to speak in support of SB 2348, an important bill which would provide safety and protection for our most cherished possessions our keiki.

We know that Hawaii is in one of the world's highest UV zones, and we know that too much sun can be dangerous to us. Human nature, being what it is, leads us to believe that skin cancer is something that "will not happen to us", and if it does, we will deal with it later. Unfortunately, the facts surrounding skin cancer tell a different story.

Some Disturbing Facts – which you may be aware of:

- Over half of all new cancers are skin cancers ... and exposure to the sun is the primary risk factor.
- Melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is now the second leading cause of cancer for women in their 20's and 30's.
- There have been no significant advances in the medical treatment of advanced melanoma or improvements in its survival rate in the last 30 years.
- U.V. damage to our skin is cumulative. It is not something that we can reverse like we can our cholesterol levels. The longer we live and the more time we spend outside, the more exposure we accumulate.
- Cataracts, once thought to be an inevitable part of aging, are also associated with UV exposure.

- The United States Department of Health and Human Services now classifies solar radiation as a known carcinogen.
- Melanoma is now the fastest growing cancer in the U.S., with cases increasing at an epidemic rate of 3% per year.
- More than one million people will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year.
- According to the Skin Cancer Foundation and the American Cancer Society, "One in five Americans will develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime".

Why is this important to Hawaii and to SB 2348 specifically?

We now know that skin cancer is one of the fastest growing cancers in the United States with Hawaii's growth rate among the highest in the Nation.

- A phone call to the Hawaii Tumor Registry will confirm that:
 - Melanoma has been the fastest growing cancer among Hawaii residents since 1975.
 - The Hawaii rate for males is nearly double what it was 25 years ago.

It is our keiki, who are especially vulnerable:

- Just one blistering sunburn during their childhood can double their risk of getting melanoma later in life.
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- Melanoma, which was seen primarily in adults over age 50, now strikes kids as young as age 10. Since 1982, incidences of pediatric melanoma have more than doubled.

What can we do about it?

I am not here to suggest that we should be alarmists – although the facts about skin cancer are startling.

- My presence here today in supporting HB 2348 is to promote the awareness that there are safe alternatives available, and that we should embrace them in order to keep our children, our teachers and ourselves safe.

This bill gives us the chance to make a difference. It is in the early years of their lives where our schools have the “opportunity” to educate and protect our keiki against UV damage. Passing this bill will help to make it a “responsibility”.

I would also encourage that this bill be broadened to:

- 1) Include private schools, preschools and day cares and not just be limited to public schools.
- 2) Add a mandatory education program into our schools to teach our students about the risks and prevention of skin cancer.
- 3) That a reasonable approach be adopted to implement this proposed bill, based upon a simple equation such as, “% of area involved”; or a “square foot per child” requirement for shade.

Thankfully, we know more about skin cancer today, than we did in previous generations. But “knowing” - is just not enough. It is “actions” such as the passing of this bill that will make a difference.

If we did not know about the dangers of UV exposure to our children ... and we carried on without doing anything different to protect them, then I guess we would just be “naive”.

But, we do know the dangers. If we chose not to doing anything to mitigate them then what are we?

Remember, based on current statistics, doing nothing means that one in five of our children, will grow up to develop skin cancer!

Mahalo for your time and your consideration of HB 2348.

Addendum

WHY SHADE

There are many reasons that a school might want to improve the quality and increase the amount of accessible shade on school grounds. The most obvious and one of the most important reasons is that shade provides protection from solar UV radiation. Due to the scheduling complexities of physical education classes, sporting events, and other outdoor activities, students are often exposed to solar UV radiation during the peak sun hours of the day between 10:00a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For some schools and for some students, using sun protective methods, such as hats or sunscreen, or implementing policy changes could prove to be problematic. Providing shade in areas where students already participate in outdoor activities can afford passive protection from the sun's damaging rays.

Extending Periods of Physical Activity

In adults, regular physical activity is linked to enhanced health and reduced risk for the development of many chronic diseases. Lifelong physical activity patterns are often developed in childhood and adolescence. In the section on preventing physical activity related injuries in CDC's Guidelines for School and Community Programs to Promote Lifelong Physical Activity Among Young People, the use of shaded spaces or indoor facilities to reduce the incidence of heat-related illnesses is recommended. Not all schools have indoor facilities designed for active play; however, providing shade on existing outdoor play areas could reduce the temperature in those areas by as much as 10° to 20 °, increasing the period of time that students could engage in active outdoor play.

A large proportion of Hawaii 4 & 5 year olds enter public schools with weight problems:

- 14 % Overweight
- 15% 'At-risk' for overweight
- 29% Combined 'at-risk' and overweight

School Complexes with the Highest Percentage of Childhood Overweight and 'At-risk' by County

County	School complex	% Overweight	% 'at-risk'	Total overweight and 'at-risk'
Oahu	TOTAL	14.4	13.8	28.2
	Kahuku	20.2	16.4	36.6
	Waialua	22.4	17.2	39.4
Hawaii	TOTAL	16.2	15.1	31.3
	Honokaa	16.2	18.2	34.4
	Pahoa	17.1	19.5	36.6
Kauai	TOTAL	13.9	16.0	29.9
	East Kauai	17.1	18.5	35.6
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"Duty of Care" Considerations

Links and Resources

The Curt and Shonda Schilling

Melanoma Foundation: www.shadefoundation.org/

The Skin Cancer Foundation: www.skincancer.org/

The SunWise Program: www.epa.gov/sunwise/index.html

The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention:
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Sources

1. National Cancer Institute, 2007 SEER Database
2. Pfahlberg A, Kolmel KF, Gefeller O. Adult vs childhood susceptibility to melanoma. Is there a difference? *Arch Dermatol*, Sept 2002; 138: 1234-1235.
3. American Cancer Society's 2007 Facts & Figures
4. Kwon HT, Mayer JA, Walker KK, Yu H, Lewis EC, Belch GE. Promotion of frequent tanning sessions by indoor tanning facilities: two studies. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2003; 46:700-5.
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6. Demierre MF. Time for the national legislation of indoor tanning to protect minors. *Arch Dermatol* 2006; 139:520-4.
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9. Godar DE, *Journal of Drugs in Dermatology*. Nov-Dec 2004.

10. Source: Christenson LJ, Borrowman TA, Vachon CM, Tollefson MM, Otley CC, Weaver AL, Roenigk RK. Incidence of basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas in a population younger than 40 years. *JAMA*. 2005;294:681-690.
11. *Archives of Dermatology*, 2007
12. American Cancer Society 2006<http://www.acs.org/>
13. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
14. Mayo Clinic 2006<http://www.mayoclinic.com/>
15. Taylor CR et al. "Photaging/Photodamage and Photoprotection" *J. of American Academy of Dermatology*, 1990: 22
16. IARC. The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: A systematic review. *International Journal of Cancer*. 2007;120:1116-1122.

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L A T E

From: Linda Elento, Member of The Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senate Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Senate Education
Senate Education Committee

Re: EDU February 7, 2008, 1:15pm

SB2348 In Support with Comments
for Safe Playground Equipment in Addition to Shade



Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2348.

Unsafe play areas and playground equipment are hazardous, liabilities. We cannot wait until someone is unnecessarily and badly hurt.

Young children with Down syndrome commonly have hypotonia, or low muscle tone, as does my son. These children may not walk until two years of age or not until six years of age. This means that the developmental and physical abilities may not be as developed as would a typically developing child.

Last year, the Board of Education required the Department of Education to report on playground equipment. A page from this report is attached (page 3) which indicates that our home school (Heeia El.) had equipment installed by the DOE appropriate for 2 to 5 year olds. A Honolulu Advertiser also published an article on the same DOE report which quotes me and my concerns for the playground where the preschoolers are allowed to play, which has a large sticker on it that states the equipment was designed for 5 to 12 year olds.

The Legislature is needed, by enacting policies and appropriating funds, to ensure our keiki, including keiki with disabilities, are kept safe while they receive a free, appropriate public education. Please don't assume the department is able to manage this problem considering its current policy and budget priorities.

Posted on: Friday, March 16, 2007

Report cites playground problems

By Beverly Creamer

Advertiser Education Writer

More than half of the state's 180 public elementary schools do not have playground equipment appropriate for children between the ages of 2 and 5 — those in preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten — according to a Department of Education report released yesterday.

The report found 96 schools, 53 percent, do not have age-appropriate equipment.

The report also said that 28 of the state's public elementary schools have older playground equipment that could pose safety problems for children. However, that equipment still needs to be checked, according to the report.

Additionally, 16 elementary schools have no playground equipment at all, although equipment has been funded — not installed — at five of those schools.

The report was requested in the wake of concerns raised by parents such as Linda Elento, the mother of a child with special needs.

Elento has taken her son out of He'eia Elementary simply because the playground equipment is hazardous for him, she says.

"It's about time they're doing something," said Elento. "It's been so long since I've been complaining to the principal, the board, the Legislature.

"Our kids are supposed to be given what's appropriate for them."

Superintendent Pat Hamamoto told the Board of Education yesterday that she would be looking into the situation.

Board member Mary Cochran was blunt in her assessment: "If anything should happen, we're all going to be held liable."

One issue raised is the cost of putting in a playground structure and rubberized surface, which is about \$75,000, according to the report.

The department must depend on funding from the Legislature to pay for installation of the equipment at the public schools.

As of today, 35 additional playgrounds have been funded and are either in design or under construction thanks to legislative funding in the past two years.

Other outside agencies, such as Hawai'i 3Rs, also have been assisting the DOE in providing age-appropriate playgrounds or building playgrounds at schools where there are none.

According to the report, the issue dates back to 1995 when the DOE decided to remove playground equipment on school campuses because of the safety and liability issue.

At the time, said the report, "existing playground equipment was deemed unsafe."

By 1999, most playground equipment had been removed, and, as funds were available from the Legislature, new, safer equipment was installed.



Please fund playground equipment appropriate for 2 to 5 year olds, including the DOE's special education preschoolers.

Better yet, please also support our private preschools and providers by sending our special education students to their preschool facilities better suited for our keiki and their families and providing necessary aides for appropriate inclusion.

Mahalo, Senators.

The Hawaii Down Syndrome Congress

**Department of Education
Playground Equipment (Structure) Inventory**

As of 3/09/07

SCHOOL	NUMBER OF EQUIPMENT	TYPE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (age 2-5, age 5-12, fitness)	ENTITY WHO INSTALLED EQUIPMENT	SCHOOL COMMENTS/CONCERNS	2 - 5	5 - 12	FITNESS	NEW FUNDED	DOE COMMENTS
Eleele	Equipment 1	Age 2-5	DOE		1	1			
Eleele	Equipment 2	Age 5-12	DOE						
Enchanted Lake	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	PTA	- Installed July 25, 1999; in good condition		1			
Ewa Beach	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	DOE	Good condition		1			
Ewa Elementary	Equipment 1		All Quality Builders		1	2			
Ewa Elementary	Equipment 2	Age 5-12	All Quality Builders						
Ewa Elementary	Equipment 3	Age 5-12	All Quality Builders						
Farrington	NONE								
Fem Elementary	Equipment 1	Age 2-5	Pre Plus						
Haaheo	NONE								
Hahaione	Equipment 1			All stand alone equipment have surfacing		1			
Haiku Elementary	Equipment 1	Age 2-5	DOE	New	1	1		2*	*New playground funded by FY07 DOE CIP funding / summer 08 targeted construction, 2nd replacement equipment funded through H3Rs
Haiku Elementary	Equipment 2	Age 5-12		Unsafe					
Haiku Elementary	Equipment 3	Age 5-12		County owned unsafe					
Hale Kula Elem	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	JVEF			1			
Haleiwa Elem	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	DOE	Good condition		1			
Hana High & Elem	Equipment 1	Age 2-5	DOE	New - Good Shape	1	1			
Hana High & Elem	Equipment 2	Age 5-12	DOE	New - Good Shape					
Hanalei	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	DOE	OK	1			1*	*New playground pending construction through H3Rs
Hanalei	Equipment 2	Age 5 -12	DOE	Step climber bars					
Hauula Elementary	Equipment 1	Ages 2-5	DOE	Good condition	1		1		
Hauula Elementary	Equipment 2	Ages 5-12	DOE	Good condition					
HCDB	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	DOE	In good condition		1			
Heeia	Equipment 1	Age 2-5	DOE	Installed 2003-2005	1	1			
Heeia	Equipment 2	Age 5-12	DOE	Installed 2003-2005					
Helemano Elem	Equipment 1	Ages 5-12	DOE			2			
Helemano Elem	Equipment 2	Ages 5-12	DOE						
Hickam Elem	Equipment 1	Age 5-12	Unknown			2			