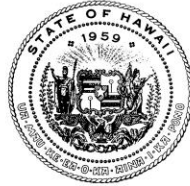


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

H.B. 611, RELATING TO TANNING

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

**January 16, 2014
2:00 PM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports this measure with reservations, as we appreciate the
2 over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives that are generally supportive of the Administration's
3 goals and objectives.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Implementation of this measure requires funding for personnel (one
5 Environmental Health Specialist) and operating expenses.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill prohibits minors from using tanning equipment in a tanning
7 facility, and provides for additional posting requirements related to prohibition of use by minors and
8 health risks associated with tanning.

9 The Department acknowledges that this measure has merit as there are health risks from an
10 improperly trained staff or from improperly maintained tanning equipment. However, given the lack of
11 adequate staffing and resources, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time. A proposed
12 administrative rule on tanning facilities, which includes the provisions of this bill, has already been
13 developed by the department but not pursued due to the lack of funding to implement.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nuʻuanu Avenue
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808.432.9149
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House Committee on the Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Hearing: January 16, 2014; 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 611 – Relating to Tanning

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 611, which prohibits the use of tanning beds for minors.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Skin cancer is the most prevalent type of cancer in the United States, and melanoma is the third most common form of cancer for individuals aged 15-29 years. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure from the sun is a known cause of skin cancer and excessive UV exposure, particularly during childhood and adolescence, is an important predictor of future health consequences. The link between UV exposure from indoor tanning devices and melanoma is consistent with what we already know about the association between UV exposure from the sun and skin cancer. This is why the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2009 elevated tanning devices to its highest cancer risk category – “carcinogenic to humans.”

Compounding this risk is the popularity of indoor tanning among young adults – especially girls. There is a general misconception among teens and adults that a so-called “base tan,” obtained by using indoor tanning devices, will have a protective effect from excessive sun exposure. Also, the tanning bed industry is not regulated as well as it should be in terms of exposure times and frequencies, education of employees, and information given to consumers. The following are some facts about tanning and skin cancer:

- Melanoma is the most deadly of all skin cancers, with more than 9,400 deaths expected to occur each year.¹
- Using a tanning bed increases the risk of two types of skin cancer, squamous and basal cell carcinomas, by 67% and 29% respectively.²
- For melanoma, there is a 59% increased risk from tanning bed use prior to age 35.³

To help reduce the incidence of and mortality from skin cancer in the United States, ACS CAN supports state and local initiatives to prohibit the use of indoor tanning devices by those under the age of 18, to reduce the rate of skin cancer and protect young people across the country from the harmful effects of indoor tanning. Laws that prohibit the use of tanning beds for minors have passed in Vermont, Illinois, Nevada, Texas, and California.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

¹ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2012. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2012. *and* IARC. "Exposure to Artificial UV Radiation and Skin Cancer: Working Group Reports. 2006, Volume 1." <http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/pdfs-online/wrk/wrk1/ArtificialUVRad&SkinCancer.pdf>.

² Wehner, et al. (2012). "Indoor Tanning and non-melanoma skin cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis." British Medical Journal. October 2012

³ Dore, J-F and Chignol, M-C. (2012). "Tanning salons and skin cancer." Photochemical and Photobiological Sciences 2012; 11:30.