



American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
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[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Hearing: March 20, 2014; 9:30 a.m.

#### **HB 611 HD1 – 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 HD1, which prohibits the use of tanning beds for minors and requires warning notifications to customers.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) 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 25-29 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ghissassi, et al.. “A Review of Human Carcinogens – Part D: Radiation.” The Lancet – Oncology; 2009: 10.

While sun exposure and tanning beds both produce potentially harmful UV radiation, powerful tanning devices may emit UV radiation 10 to 15 times higher than that of the midday sun.<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that tanning beds provide higher levels of UV radiation than daily outdoor exposure.

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.
- Melanoma is one of the most common cancers among men and women aged 15-29 years.
- Using a tanning bed increases the risk of two types of skin cancer, squamous and basal cell carcinomas, by 67% and 29% respectively.
- There is a 59% increased risk of melanoma for those who use a tanning bed prior to age 35.<sup>3</sup>
- UV radiation from indoor tanning and other sources is cumulative over time. The earlier a person starts tanning, the greater the risk of getting melanoma and other skin cancers later in life.<sup>4</sup>

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. 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 provide testimony on this important issue.

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<sup>2</sup> International Agency for Research on Cancer Working Group on Exposure to Artificial Ultraviolet (UV) Light and Skin Cancer. The association of use of sunbeds with cutaneous malignant melanoma and other skin cancers: a systematic review. *Int J Cancer*. 2007;120(5):1116–1122.

<sup>3</sup> Boniol B, Autier P, Boyle P, Gandini S. “Cutaneous melanoma attributable to sunbed use: systematic review and meta-analysis”. *British Medical Journal*, 2012; 345:e4757. Correction published December 2012; 345:e8503.

<sup>4</sup> American Cancer Society. “Melanoma of the Skin”. Atlanta: American Cancer Society.

# HIDS

Hawai'i Dermatological Society

Dear Committee,

As the organization representing our state's skin-care physicians, the Hawaii Dermatological Society is writing in support of the restriction of the use of indoor tanning devices to promote the safety of the young people of our state.

Research indicates that the risk of developing melanoma increases by 75 percent in individuals who have been exposed to UV radiation from indoor tanning devices, and the risk increases with each subsequent use. Data also shows tanning sessions increase the risk of non-melanoma skin cancers.

Approximately 12,000 people will die each year in the USA from skin cancer. More than 9,000 skin cancer deaths are due to melanoma. Unfortunately melanoma is no longer a cancer seen only in older individuals. Instead, melanoma is the most common form of cancer in young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common form of cancer in adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old.

As Hawaii's dermatologists, we see skin cancers every week and have sadly had to diagnose skin cancers in many young people.

Thank you for your efforts to increase regulation of these dangerous devices. We fully support any further regulation that will completely prohibit access to minors under the age of 18 years.

Sincerely,

Shannon M. Sheu, MD  
Dermatologist  
President, Hawaii Dermatological Society  
On behalf of the members of the Hawaii Dermatological Society



March 19, 2014

Conference Room 229  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Support for HB 611**

Dear Senators:

AIM at Melanoma is the largest international non-profit organization focused on melanoma research, education, awareness, and legislation. We support HB 611, which would prohibit minors under 18 from using indoor tanning devices.

The World Health Organization labeled UV radiation from tanning devices as “carcinogenic to humans.” They are in the same risk category as cigarettes and Hawaii does not allow anyone under the age of 18 to purchase tobacco products.

In the last thirty years, the incidence of melanoma among young women has increased as much as 50 percent. Melanoma is now the second most common cancer in women aged 15-29. It is the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25-30 and is second only to breast cancer in women aged 30-34. The rising rate of melanoma is, in part, due to the popularity of tanning salons among young women. Those who begin tanning before the age of 35 increase their melanoma risk by 59 percent.

Despite the risks associated with these devices, use of these machines is on the rise among high school aged girls. The rate of indoor tanning device use increases drastically as high school girls grow older, from nearly 12 percent among freshman girls to nearly 32 percent among seniors. HB 611 would protect these teens in Hawaii.

In the interest of protecting teens from the early onset of serious medical conditions, AIM strongly urges you to support HB 611.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Samantha Guild*

Samantha Guild  
AIM at Melanoma  
sguild@AIMatMelanoma.org  
www.AIMatMelanoma.org

**From:** [Penny Young](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: HB 611  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:47:06 AM

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Senate Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: House Bill 611, HD1, Relating to Tanning

Chair Green, Chair Baker, and members of the joint committees,

I am in support of HB 611, HD1. Indoor tanning by our youth is a major concern due to the possible health risks for developing skin cancer. The World Health Organization now categorizes tanning devices as a class 1 carcinogen, the same category as asbestos and tobacco, and recommends that minors not be allowed to use them. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, from the sun and indoor tanning devices cause skin cancer as well as eye damage,

suppression of the immune system and premature aging of the skin. Because a young person's skin is still developing it makes them even more susceptible to the harmful effects

of UV rays. Severe sunburn during childhood significantly increases the risk of melanoma later in life. That is why indoor tanning is more dangerous for our youth. For these reasons, I support HB 611, HD1, and urge you to pass this bill.

Aloha,

Penny A. Young  
2922 Aukoi Street  
Lihue, HI 96766

**From:** [Linda Hirano](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 611, HD1, 3/20/14 at 9:30am  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:14:28 AM

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Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

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Aloha,

**Linda Hirano** | Administrative Assistant  
High Plains Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.  
2370 Nuuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: 808.432.9153 | Fax: 808.595.7545  
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**From:** [Jan April](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 611, HD1, 3/20/14 at 9:30am  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:59:53 AM

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Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: House Bill 611, HD1, Relating to Tanning

Chair Green, Chair Baker, and members of the joint committee,

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Aloha,

**Jan April** | Coordinator, Facilities  
American Cancer Society, Inc.  
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**From:** [Beau Lani Barker](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 611, HD1, 3/20/14 at 9:30am  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:56:09 AM

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Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: House Bill 611, HD1, Relating to Tanning

Chair Green, Chair Baker, and members of the joint committee,

I am in support of HB 611, HD1. Indoor tanning by our youth is a major concern due to the possible health risks for developing skin cancer. The World Health Organization now categorizes tanning devices as a class 1 carcinogen, the same category as asbestos and tobacco, and recommends that minors not be allowed to use them. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, from the sun and indoor tanning devices cause skin cancer as well as eye damage, suppression of the immune system and premature aging of the skin. Because a young person's skin is still developing it makes them even more susceptible to the harmful effects of UV rays. Severe sunburn during childhood significantly increases the risk of melanoma later in life. Youth are exposed to UV rays in Hawaii on a daily basis; they do not need additional exposure. That is why indoor tanning is more dangerous for our youth. For these reasons, I support HB 611, HD1, and urge you to pass this bill.

Aloha,

Beau Lani Barker  
[Beau.barker@cancer.org](mailto:Beau.barker@cancer.org)  
808 432-9161

**Beau Lani Barker** | Account Representative, Hospital Systems  
High Plains Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.  
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Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: 808.432.9161 | Mobile: 808.220.7634 | Fax: 808.595.7545  
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Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of HB611, restricting the use of tanning beds by minors.

Indoor tanning is linked to an increased risk of all forms of skin cancer. Indoor tanners are 74 percent more likely to develop deadly melanoma than those who have never tanned. Here in Hawaii, we are already at risk for overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation. The availability of tanning beds puts our youth at greater risk for future skin cancer due to early exposure to this carcinogen.

As a dermatologist, I diagnose skin cancers every day in my office. With growing awareness and knowledge of the negative effects of UV light, we should be doing everything possible to educate our youth about healthy lifestyles. Skin cancer, like lung cancer, is preventable if risky behaviors are eliminated.

I urge you to support and pass HB611.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Nip-Sakamoto, MD

**From:** [Sarah Howell](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB 611  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:14:52 PM

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Hello Dr Green,

Dr. Carla Nip-Sakamoto told me you have agreed to hear our bill on Thursday to ban tanning bed use in children under the age of 18. I'm a local dermatologist, and I fully support this.

Tanning and tanning beds (no matter what type of bulbs) have clearly been linked to skin cancer (including one of the most deadly forms of cancer - melanoma). It is extremely important for us to protect our impressionable young children and prevent them from cancer and possibly death. Just as we do not allow children to smoke cigarettes, another known carcinogen, we should not allow them in a tanning bed. Frankly, no one should be allowed in a tanning bed nor allowed to smoke cigarettes (but that is a totally different matter!).

When I was 16 years old, my seemingly well intentioned mother bought me my first tanning package so that I would have a "golden" glow for my spring break. She used to go tanning with me, and it was a bonding experience. I was hooked, and continued to tan in beds until age 26! 10 years of chronic sun exposure on my ridiculous pale skin. Yikes! I even knew better by the time I was 26 too, but the habit had sunk in. The last day I tanned was the day before I started my dermatology residency. My main reason for not tanning at that point was because I couldn't be a hypocrite to my patients by telling them not tan while I was tan myself. It still wasn't because I was afraid of skin cancer.

This was 10 years ago (I turn 36 next month), and I completely regret it, but there is no taking it back now. I can see the sun related damage on my skin, and now all I can hope is that when I do get skin cancer I catch it early. 30% of Caucasian patients will get skin cancer at some point in their lives and tanning beds (and living in Hawaii!) only makes this number go up.

The skin, as I tell my patients, is like an elephant in that it "never forgets". All those years of damage will eventually sneak up on me and cause cancer.

I grew up in Connecticut, and I wish there was legislation at that time which prevented me from starting into this addiction. Just like cigarettes it is a completely physical and mental addiction. I was a doctor, I knew better and still I was addicted and couldn't stop. I had all the facts, but I still couldn't make the right healthy decision for my skin. Our children are young and impressionable and we need to help them make the right decisions from a young age to help mold their future selves. The same way we teach the to eat well, brush their teeth, exercise, we need to educate them to protect their skin.

Thank you for reading this email and for your consideration in passing this bill.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Howell, MD, FAAD

**From:** [Lani Almanza](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 611, HD1, 3/20/14 at 9:30am  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:16:22 PM

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Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: House Bill 611, HD1, Relating to Tanning

Chair Green, Chair Baker, and members of the joint committee,

I am in support of HB 611, HD1. Indoor tanning by our youth is a major concern due to the possible health risks for developing skin cancer. The World Health Organization now categorizes tanning devices as a class 1 carcinogen, the same category as asbestos and tobacco, and recommends that minors not be allowed to use them. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, from the sun and indoor tanning devices cause skin cancer as well as eye damage, suppression of the immune system and premature aging of the skin. Because a young person's skin is still developing it makes them even more susceptible to the harmful effects of UV rays and severe sunburn during childhood significantly increases the risk of melanoma later in life. That is why indoor tanning is more dangerous for our youth. For these reasons, I support HB 611, HD1, and urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

**Lani Almanza** | Senior Representative, Community Engagement  
High Plains Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.  
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Honolulu, HI 96817  
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**From:** [Erin Moncada](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB611 - Tanning Booths  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:22:59 PM

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I strongly encourage passage of HB611 to prohibit the use of tanning booths by minors. The use of indoor tanning devices has been directly linked to an increased risk of melanoma and has been categorized by the World Health Organization's International Agency of Research on Cancer as —carcinogenic to humans. However, the desire to have a tanned appearance causes many people, especially young adults and teenagers, to ignore the warnings and put themselves at risk.

More than 76,000 people are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma, the most serious and deadly form of skin cancer, in 2013 and more than 12,500 people are projected to die from the disease. Melanoma is the most common cancer among young adults aged 25-29 and the second most common cancer among those aged 15-29. Please protect our adolescents from a preventable cancer diagnosis. As a cancer survivor myself, I know firsthand the devastation that diagnosis causes.

**Erin Moncada** | Senior Director, Community Engagement

High Plains Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.

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Honolulu, HI 96817

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**From:** [Kory Kitagawa](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB611  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:02:00 PM

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Chair Green, Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees,

As a health care provider who diagnoses skin cancer every working day, I urge you to please support HB611.

Indoor tanning is known to increase the risk for skin cancer. Research indicates that tanning before age 35 increases the risk of melanoma by 59%. Melanoma is deadly and is the second most common cancer in men and women aged 15-29 years. It kills people in the primes of their lives when young adults are starting families and establishing careers.

Just one tanning session a year while in high school or college can increase the risk of basal cell cancer (the most common skin cancer) by 10 % over non-tanners. Six sessions in a year boosts that risk to 82%.

The indoor tanning industry targets young people and often betrays them by suggesting that tanning helps prevent skin cancer and sunburn. It does not.

Tanning beds have been classified as carcinogenic by the World Health Organization, just like tobacco. Skin cancer, like lung cancer, is preventable if risky behaviors are eliminated.

Respectfully submitted,

Kory Kitagawa, MD FAAD

**From:** [Shane Morita](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB611/SB2221 tanning bed restriction for minors in Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:43:46 PM

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By way of introduction, I am a Surgical Oncologist in Honolulu who was born and raised in Hilo. I am a member of the American Cancer Society and Hawaii Cancer Coalition. As a concerned health care provider and citizen, I would like to advocate for HB611/SB 2221. I treat patients with melanoma on a regular basis and witness the detrimental effects of UV exposure. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared tanning beds to be a carcinogen; members of the WHO have proclaimed that regular use before age 30 increases the risk of melanoma by 75%. Many individuals are not aware that melanoma is a malignancy that is progressively increasing in incidence and is one of the most common cancers that affects young adults. May is melanoma awareness month and I hope as a state, we can highlight the passage of legislation similar to California, Illinois, Nevada, Texas, and Vermont that restricts tanning bed usage in minors.

I humbly request that you support this legislation germane to the livelihood of our people.

Yours truly,

Shane

Shane Y. Morita, MD, MS, PhD, FACS

Surgical Oncologist/Cancer Researcher/Community Educator

Fellowship-Trained at the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute and The Johns Hopkins Hospital/The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine