



February 6, 2014

The Honorable Josh Green
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 2221 Hearing, February 7, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chairpersons Green and Baker,

On behalf of over 13,000 U.S. members of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA), I am writing to thank you for your consideration of SB 2221 and to urge your support. As dermatologists, we dedicate our lives to promoting habits in our patients that ensure healthy skin. The AADA is extremely concerned with the growing patronage of indoor tanning facilities by adolescents, and urge you and your colleagues to take the necessary steps to protect Hawaii's teens from the dangers of indoor tanning.

Tanning Device Use is as Carcinogenic as Tobacco Smoking

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from tanning beds has been classified as a known human carcinogen by the US Department of Health and Human Services, and is recognized as "carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer in the same category as tobacco and tobacco smoking, mustard gas, and asbestos.¹ In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy People 2020 goals include an objective to reduce adolescent use of indoor tanning devices.²

In recognition of the dangers associated with tanning devices, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently proposed changes to its regulation of tanning beds, including a strong recommendation against the use of tanning beds by minors under the age of 18. The proposal would raise the classification for sunlamps and tanning beds to a Class II level, which institutes stricter regulations to protect public health. This new proposal would require tanning bed and lamp manufacturers to label the devices so that they clearly inform consumers about the risks of using tanning beds; warn frequent users

¹ IARC Working Group. Special Report: Policy; A review of human carcinogens –Part D: radiation. *Lancet Oncology* 2009; 10: 751-52.

²US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020. www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Objectives, accessed 22 Nov 2010.

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of sunlamps to be regularly screened for skin cancer; and alert users that tanning lamps are not recommended for people under 18 years old.

There is no such thing as a “safe” tan. UV radiation damages the skin’s DNA, which is the beginning stage of skin cancer. Use of indoor tanning beds has been linked to melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, molecular damage of the skin, and other acute damage to the eyes and skin, and should be avoided.

Senate Bill 2221 would prohibit minors under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning equipment. Additionally, the bill would establish standards and consumer protections through the regulation of indoor tanning facilities as well as establish risk awareness measures to users of age.

Indoor Tanning Significantly Increases One’s Risk of Developing Skin Cancer

Epidemiologic data suggest that most skin cancers can be prevented if children, adolescents, and adults are protected from UV radiation. However, the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old. A study published in the *International Journal of Cancer* found that compared with study participants who had never used a tanning bed, the risk of melanoma was 41 percent higher for those who had ever used a tanning bed, and was approximately doubled for those who reported more than 10 lifetime sessions.³

Indoor tanning is no longer only a risk factor for melanoma. New evidence demonstrates that ever-use of indoor tanning beds is associated with a 69 percent increased risk of early-onset basal cell carcinoma (BCC), the most common form of skin cancer. Risk of developing BCC was also higher in those who begin indoor tanning at earlier ages.⁴

Prohibiting use of indoor tanning for all minors under the age of 18 is critical to preventing future skin cancers. Survey data indicate use of these devices increases with each year of adolescence: indoor tanning rates among 14-, 15-, 16-, and 17-year-old girls in 2010 were 5 percent, 13.6 percent, 20.9 percent, and 26.8 percent, respectively.⁵

Tanning Industry Consistently Misleads Customers

In January 2010, the Federal Trade Commission charged the Indoor Tanning Association (ITA) with making false health and safety claims about indoor tanning. The ITA is now prohibited from making any false health claims, misrepresenting any tests or studies, and cannot provide deceptive advertisements to its members. Moreover, future advertisements from the association must contain disclosures regarding the risk of developing skin cancer and disclosures about vitamin D.

³ Cust AE, Armstrong BK, Goumas C, Jenkins MA, Schmid H, Hopper JL et al. Sunbed use during adolescence and early adulthood is associated with increased risk of early-onset melanoma. *Int J Cancer* Jul 28, 2010.

⁴ Ferruci LM, Cartmel B, Molinaro AM, Leffell DJ, Bale AE, Mayne ST. Indoor tanning and risk of early-onset basal cell carcinoma. *J Amer Acad Dermatol* Doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2011.11.940. Published online December 8, 2011.

⁵ Mayer JA, Woodruff SI, Slymen DJ, Sallis JF, Forster JL, Clapp EJ et al. Adolescents' use of indoor tanning: a large-scale evaluation of psychosocial, environmental, and policy-level correlates. *Am J Public Health* 2011;101:930-8.

In February 2012, the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee released an investigative report detailing false and misleading health information provided by the indoor tanning industry. This investigation revealed that salons described the suggestion of a link between indoor tanning and skin cancer as a “myth,” “rumor,” or “hype.” It also revealed that four out of five tanning salons falsely claimed that indoor tanning is beneficial to a young person’s health. In fact, salons used many approaches to downplay the health risks of indoor tanning, including blaming the use of sunscreen as a reason for rising rates of skin cancer in the US. Many of the salons tried to validate the safety of indoor tanning by alluding to the fact that unsafe practices would not be allowed by the government. The Committee’s report reconfirms that stronger state and federal laws are needed to provide oversight of this industry.⁶

Despite Legislative Gains, Increased Regulation Continues to be Necessary

Tanning advocates often argue that additional regulation of their industry is not necessary. Yet, despite some progress, the tanning industry remains highly unregulated and studies have indicated that state laws requiring parental consent are ineffective at curbing this dangerous activity. Furthermore, commercial indoor tanning facilities are prevalent in the US, with an average of 42 tanning salons per major US city. This number exceeded the number of Starbucks and McDonalds in most locations.⁷

Although 40 states, including the District of Columbia, and ten local jurisdictions regulate indoor tanning facilities, more must be done. The AADA believes protecting the public, especially adolescents, and requiring appropriate oversight of the indoor tanning industry is crucial to promoting public health and reducing overall health care costs. According to the National Cancer Institute, the estimated total direct cost associated with the treatment of melanoma in 2010 was \$2.36 billion.⁸ Of course, these figures do not begin to account for the tragic loss of life from this menacing disease.

I urge you and your colleagues to support SB 2221 in order to protect adolescents and young adults from the dangers of indoor tanning in Hawaii. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on this important public health issue. For further information, please contact Lisa Albany, assistant director of state policy for the AADA, at LAlbany@aad.org or (202) 712-2615.

Sincerely,



Dirk M. Elston, MD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association

⁶ US House Committee on Energy and Commerce. False and Misleading Health Information Provided to Teens by the Indoor Tanning Industry Investigative Report. http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Tanning_percent20Investigation_percent20Report_percent202.1.12.pdf, accessed 20 Feb 2012.

⁷ Hoerster KD, Garrow RL, Mayer JA, Clapp EJ, Weeks JR, Woodruff SI, Sallis JF, Slymen DJ, Patel MR, Sybert SA.

“Density of indoor tanning facilities in 116 large U.S. cities.” *Am J Prev Med* 2009; 36 (3): 243-46.

⁸ “The Cost of Cancer.” National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. 2011. www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/servingpeople/cancer-statistics/costofcancer (accessed 26 Aug. 2011).



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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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Hearing: February 7, 2014; 9:00 a.m.

SB 2221 – 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 SB 2221, 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.”¹

¹ 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.² 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 35.³
- 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.⁴

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 testify on this important issue.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ American Cancer Society. “Melanoma of the Skin”. Atlanta: American Cancer Society.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: sakoda@hawaiiink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2221 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
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SB2221

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernie Sakoda	American Cancer Society	Support	No

Comments: "The current increase in melanoma in older populations is the result of exposure to UV radiation starting in childhood and young adult years. That means preventing exposure to UV radiation as early as possible in a person's life is important." Respectfully submitted, Bernadette H. Sakoda State Lead Ambassador

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SB2221

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aimee Addison	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please make it law that Children under the age of 18 can not use tanning beds! Protect our children, raise Melanoma Skin cancer Awareness. Tanning beds can kill you!

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Melanoma Skin Cancer is preventable!

No one should ever use a tanning bed, especially not children.

My sister Samantha Channels raised awareness with her GOTSUNBLOCK campaign, in Hawaii on all of the islands, especially on Oahu and the Big Island. Samantha fought Skin Cancer hard for 10 years, to that ultimately took her from her family and her four young children on January 15 2012, she was only 36. Please help save lives, teach and protect our kids. Tanning can kill you!

Hawaii has no need for tanning beds any ways. You can get killed by the Sun if you don't protect your skin either. Samantha my sister and I grew up on the beaches in Hawaii, we did not protect our skin and now my sister has died of melanoma skin cancer. A preventable cancer. Please, make it law for people to be aware of this preventable cancer, and please protect our children. Teach them, and protect them.

Teach them to love the skin they were born in. That tanning bed could kill you!