



January 29, 2013

The Honorable Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Health Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 331  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairwoman Au Belatti:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and the Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (HAOPS) are writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 611.** This bill would prohibit tanning facilities or operators from allowing children under the age of 18 from using tanning equipment. The bill would also require warning signs to be conspicuously posted in tanning facilities to inform consumers of the health risks associated with tanning. The AOA, AOCD and HAOPS support imposing appropriate safety precautions and educational requirements upon tanning device operators.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. The AOCD represents over 600 physicians, dermatology residents and student members. It is dedicated to improving the standards of the practice of dermatology, stimulating the study of dermatology and promoting understanding of the nature and scope of services rendered by osteopathic dermatologists. HAOPS is a professional organization that represents the nearly 275 DOs providing patient care in Hawaii.

Tanning equipment works by bombarding the skin with UV radiation. Tanning salons use lamps that emit UV-A and UV-B radiation, both of which damage the skin and can cause skin cancer.<sup>1</sup> In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a working group of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified UV-emitting tanning devices as a carcinogen, an agent known to cause cancer in humans.<sup>2</sup> Just last year, a study found that indoor tanning can cause the

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<sup>1</sup> Food and Drug Administration, Indoor Tanning: The Risks of Ultraviolet Rays, May 11, 2010, *available at* <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm186687.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> IARC, Sunbeds and UV Radiation, July 7, 2009, *available at* [http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds\\_uvradiation.php](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/2009/sunbeds_uvradiation.php).

most common form of skin cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer, in addition to the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma.<sup>3</sup>

Prohibiting minors from using tanning equipment is an effective means to protect them from the long-term health risks of these devices. Young people are at a heightened risk of developing skin cancer from indoor tanning, as they subject themselves to additional years of artificial UV exposure.<sup>4</sup> For this reason, the WHO and the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommend banning the use of tanning devices by minors.<sup>5</sup> States that have restricted access to indoor tanning for minors have seen stable or decreased rates of skin cancer, while states without these policies have seen an increase in the same.<sup>6</sup>

The use of tanning by children is inappropriate and should be banned due to its long-term health effects. In addition, adults who choose to patronize tanning facilities deserve to be made aware of the dangers of exposure to UV radiation. **We urge you to protect Hawaii's citizens from artificial UV exposure by supporting HB 611 in committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Ray E. Stowers, DO, FACOFP *dist.*  
President, AOA



David Grice, DO, FAOCD  
President, AOCD



Les Barrickman, DO  
President, HAOPS

CC: Norman E. Vinn, DO, AOA President-elect  
Mark A. Baker, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs  
John B. Crosby, JD, AOA Executive Director  
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<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Fernandez, [Tanning Beds Linked to Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer](http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer), Oct. 2, 2012, available at <http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2012/10/12846/tanning-beds-linked-non-melanoma-skin-cancer>.

<sup>4</sup> See, Jean-Francois Dore and Marie-Christine Chignol, [Tanning Salons and Skin Cancer](#), *Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.* 11, 30-37 (2012).

<sup>5</sup> Adam Riker, Nicolas Zea, and Tan Trinh, [The Epidemiology, Prevention, and Detection of Melanoma](#), *The Ochsner Journal*, 10:56-65 (2010).

<sup>6</sup> Dore, et al., *supra*.