



## **MRF Statement on Hawaii's Ban on Sunscreen Ingredients**

Broad spectrum, FDA-approved sunscreens are a safe and effective way to prevent lasting skin damage and deadly cancers like [melanoma](#). The [Melanoma Research Foundation](#) (MRF) shares the concern of the [American Academy of Dermatology](#) (AAD) that restrictions on the availability and use of sunscreen could increase the public's risk of developing skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. However, recent legislation in the state of Hawaii restricting the use of two common sunscreen ingredients does offer the opportunity to discuss the proven science behind sun protection.

1. FDA approved, broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen (products that protect against both UVA and UVB rays) has been proven safe and effective through multiple scientifically rigorous studies conducted over many years. More information can be found on the MRF [Sunscreen Facts](#) page.
2. Sunscreen is only one part of a comprehensive daily [sun protection strategy](#) that also includes protective clothing, seeking shade and avoiding sun exposure during peak hours between 10am – 4pm.
3. The recent legislation in Hawaii restricts the use of only two sunscreen ingredients - oxybenzone and octinoxate. While these are common ingredients in many sunscreen products, there are multiple alternatives available that provide the same UV-protection without using either ingredient.
4. More options could be available, but the government needs to act. Despite multiple pending applications, the FDA has not approved a new active ingredient in sunscreen since 1999. In this time, new sunscreen ingredients have been tested and in use for over a decade in places like the European Union and Australia. As a Charter Member of the [Public Access to SunScreens \(PASS\) Coalition](#), the MRF continues to collaborate with the FDA, Congress, the White House, health providers, consumer organizations and stakeholders to establish a regulatory pathway for timely pre-market review of new, safe and effective sunscreen ingredients.
5. While claims about the potential environmental effect of two specific ingredients may require further scrutiny, when it comes to the benefits of sunscreen, the evidence is overwhelming.
  - a. Research suggests that nearly 90% of melanoma diagnoses are caused by exposure to UV radiation.
  - b. It takes only one blistering sunburn, especially at a young age, to more than double a person's chance of developing melanoma.
  - c. Melanoma is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in people ages 15-29. It is the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25-30.

Sunscreen should continue to be part of a daily regimen to promote a lifetime of skin health. With so many options available, remember that the best sunscreen is the one that will be used every day. That could be different for everyone, so try different options (always broad spectrum SPF 30+) and consult with your dermatologist to find the product that best matches your lifestyle.