

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Hawaii-Pacific Newsletter - April 2020



Aloha ACS CAN ohana! I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and staying safe. During these shelter in place days, I find myself thinking back on the time when I was going through chemo & radiation treatments and thinking about how terrifying it must be for survivors currently undergoing treatment. For some, the fear of catching the virus while having a compromised immune system is frightening and then there are those who may have to put their treatments on hold temporarily due to the more pressing pandemic at hand. These uncertain times have brought about deep reflection around our work and the impact we are making in our community. One thing I can say for certain is that what we do definitely makes a difference, our voices matter, especially in these times. We cannot lose sight of the goal to end cancer! So please remember our loved ones who have lost their battle to cancer and those currently fighting because now more than ever **we need you** to help us continue the fight to care for survivors and protect our community from cancer. We hope that we can count on you to continue to volunteer with ACS CAN and help us defeat cancer! We need you now more than ever!

Be well & malama pono,
Uri Martos, Hawaii State Lead Ambassador

STATE UPDATE

On the state legislative front, the Hawaii Legislature decided to recess beginning on March 17th to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and closed legislative offices on March 19th after a state senator tested positive for COVID-19. At this time there are no legislative actions occurring such as public hearings, committee votes, and floor sessions. This necessary move in response to a global pandemic caused us to postpone our advocacy activities for Cancer Awareness Day after we changed the format from an in-person event to a virtual event. With the recess beginning on the same day as our event was planned, we wanted to make sure that your efforts would be impactful and we knew that it would not be as all government attention shifted to addressing COVID-19. Currently, there is no indication when the Legislature will come back in session. But like all sectors of the state, many decisions will be determined on the evolving data and recommendations by public health professionals. We thank you for your patience.

Legislature In Recess



On March 17th, the Legislature took an extended recess considering COVID-19 recommendations by the CDC to avoid large gatherings. All legislative actions are currently suspended until further notice.

Please stay tuned for more information about future advocacy activities.

FEDERAL UPDATE

On the federal front, we are actively engaged in advocating for both resources for health care workers, cancer patients, and families to address COVID-19 concerns as well as protecting non-profits during the current economic downturn resulting from the mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ACS CAN was involved in the passage of two of the federal stimulus packages passed by Congress to address COVID-19 passed on March 18th and 25th. Some of the highlights from those two measures are:

- Funding for the Community Health Centers that serve more than 29 million Americans in over 12,000 rural and urban communities across the nation.
- Up to 2 weeks of paid family medical leave so people can take care of loved ones impacted by coronavirus or care for children whose schools have closed.
- Coverage with no cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing even for those who are uninsured or underinsured.
- Tax relief for charitable organizations like the American Cancer Society so they can remain on the frontlines serving cancer patients during and long after this health crisis.

The work is not finished so continue to take action when you are able to. Know that we will continue to work on ensuring federal legislation addressing COVID-19 also helps cancer patients.

Adjusting to COVID-19

During this time of legislative uncertainty, ACS CAN has shifted its focus on the federal level to advocate for cancer patients and non-profits as Congress works on their legislative stimulus packages to address the challenges faced by COVID-19. Thank you to everyone who sent in messages to our congressional delegation for financial assistance to support non-profits during this time. ACS CAN will continue to advocate for more financial support of ACS and other non-profits that will likely face financial hardships due to donation and financial disruptions from COVID-19.



How is COVID-19 impacting you?

Let us also not forget during this difficult time that cancer patients and their families face even more uncertainty and risk. COVID-19 has changed the way many cancer patients are receiving care through telemedicine and other avenues of communication. Many health care facilities have also scaled back on other services such as elective procedures, screenings, and wellness visits. We are carefully monitoring these changes to understand the challenges that cancer patients are facing and how we can address those issues through advocacy. Cancer will not stop for COVID-19, and neither will we. From all of us at ACS CAN please stay informed, stay safe, and continue your efforts to advocate for cancer patients and their families.

Take an opportunity to share how you have been impacted by COVID-19. Are you a current patient or survivor having difficulty getting to your cancer treatments or physician visits? Let us know in what ways we can advocate for you! You can share your story with us online at:

<https://www.fightcancer.org/share-your-story>

Or by contacting your Hawaii-Pacific Staff Partner, Cynthia Au, at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org or 808-432-9139

No One Fights Cancer Alone Campaign

Hope is imperative in the fight against cancer. Because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, cancer patients need hope now more than ever. The current pandemic has put even more stress and worry on cancer patients through increased isolation, postponed treatments and uncertainty for the future. While much of the world's focus is on this pandemic, we know cancer doesn't stop so we can't either. That's why we're launching a new social media campaign to bring hope to cancer patients who need it most.

"No One Fights Cancer Alone" is a campaign that coincides with our annual Lights of Hope fundraiser. The idea is to create a chain of hope, so cancer patients know they're not alone during this dark time. Participating is simple:

1. Take a selfie of yourself and the reason you fight cancer – this could be a photo of a person in your life who has battled cancer or a piece of paper with a phrase on it.
2. Purchase a "Lights of Hope" bag in honor of your reason for fighting cancer. These bags will be displayed alongside over 40,000 others at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on September 15, 2020.
3. Post that selfie to Facebook using the Lights of Hope Frame and challenge at least three of your friends to keep the chain of hope moving by donating and posting a photo to their page.

How to add the Lights of Hope Frame on your photo:

- Once you've uploaded your profile picture, hover over it and click "update".
- Click 'Add Frame' on the top right
- Search #LightsofHope. Pick the one that says, "By Maggie Osborne."
- Tag us with your photo at #acscanhi.

Even when we cannot be together, let's ensure cancer patients know they're not alone. Start the chain of hope in your community today!



What is Lights of Hope?

In September, more than 40,000 Lights of Hope bags will line the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, DC. which include touching messages of support, encouragement and remembrance for those who have fought cancer, been a caregiver or lost a loved one.

ACS CAN Hawaii will be honoring our fellow Hawaii friends and family at this very special event and we'd love to have all of those who have bravely battled cancer in our state represented.

You can help us light the Lincoln Memorial with your dedicated bag and help us send a visible reminder to Congress that they need to do more to help fight this disease. Purchase a bag today for \$10. For more information, contact your Hawaii-Pacific Staff Partner, Cynthia Au, at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org or 808-432-9139.

Purchase a Lights of Hope bag:
<http://action.fightcancer.org/goto/Hawaii>

Your bag comes with an ACS CAN membership. Renew today!

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax deductible

Past Highlighted Events



FINGERS ON FIRE

On March 22nd, Ambassador Constituent Team Lead Colten Moore held his second annual “Fingers on Fire” online Twitch fundraiser for ACS CAN. The 12-hour marathon guitar challenge raised \$454.54. Donors had the opportunity to raise the bar by donating and activating challenges Colten had to perform including playing with oven mitts or switched hands, and speed variations. Colten also donated one penny for every missed note.



LIGHTING HOPE THIS VALENTINE'S

On February 13th, ACS CAN held a Lighting Hope this Valentine's Light of Hope bag decorating party at American Cancer Society in honor of or in memory of a loved one to celebrate Valentine's Day. We decorated over 40 bags! Mahalo to all who donated materials, supplies and dedicated a bag to a loved one.

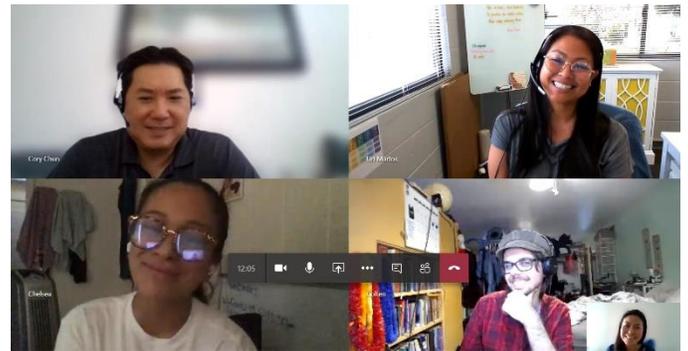
Volunteer Spotlight– Gerico Demesilo



Hi! My name is Gerico Demesilo, I am a senior studying public health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. A part of my requirement for graduation is to apply what I learned in my studies in the field by joining an organization. Although my interest is in diseases and epidemiology, during these

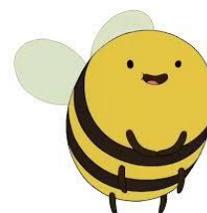
times organizations such as the Department of Health and CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) will not be taking in students for an internship. However, upon learning about ACS CAN and what they do, I found an interest in supporting their legislative priority to ban the sale of flavored tobacco including e-liquids because vaping and the use of tobacco products are affecting Hawaii's youth and my generation.

We are meeting virtually!



Check out how your state lead advocates are meeting virtually. We will be hosting an all volunteer call with the latest updates in advocacy - stay tuned!

Bee Positive!



Hang in there! If we can fight cancer, we can get through anything! Also, bee sure to follow us on our socials!