

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



2020 Legislative Session Recap

The 2020 legislature reconvened on June 22nd for a short three week session, and like many unprecedented occurrences due to the pandemic, they did not follow the normal legislative procedures we would expect.

On all bills that received a hearing, public testimony was only accepted in written form as the legislature discouraged public gatherings. The legislative calendar also excluded the Conference Committee, whose function is to reconcile

differences between the House and Senate versions of a bill, before debate in respective chambers and voting on the bill to be sent to the Governor for approval.

ACS CAN originally supported bill HB2457 to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco including menthol flavor and flavored e-cigarette liquids in Hawaii. However, when the legislative session reconvened, Senate Committees amended the bill to include the exemption of menthol flavor. As a result, ACS CAN cannot support this version of the bill that includes an exemption to [menthol flavored tobacco](#).

Luckily, the House did not accept the Senate changes to HB2457 and with no Conference Committee process, the bill did not pass this session. No opportunities for further public input and discussion were accepted in this part of the Legislative process.

Now, ACS CAN needs your help to prepare for further work on this issue. We are looking for stories on flavored tobacco. If you know youth, parents, or friends who would like to share a story on e-cigarette use or flavored tobacco and/or menthol flavor, contact us to share your [story](#).

We are in unprecedented times and although our country, state, and community are all facing significant impacts on our daily lives, your American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network staff and lead volunteers are continuing to work to deliver on our mission to advocate for cancer issues. We do not know what the legislative process will look like next year, but we will never stop fighting with you to end cancer!



Flavored Tobacco Hooks Kids display at the State Capitol earlier this year.

In the news!

July 23: Letter to the Editor from ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific: [Big Tobacco will continue addicting Hawaii's youth](#)

FEDERAL UPDATE

ACS CAN is hard at work on legislative proposals to address pandemic-related health, research, and economic relief needs. We advocated for numerous provisions in COVID-19 Emergency Package to include:

- Nonprofit relief for mid-sized organizations like American Cancer Society
- Increase in charitable deduction amounts
- Oral chemo parity for patient access
- Special Enrollment period for private coverage through the ACA
- Medicaid coverage
- NIH Research funding

Cancer does not stop so neither do we. Your ACS CAN team is now focused on cancer issues and appropriations for fiscal year 2021 including:

- NIH/NCI/CDC increase in base funding
- Enhancing Cancer Research
- Lung cancer screening

State and Foreign Operations

- Global Cervical campaign

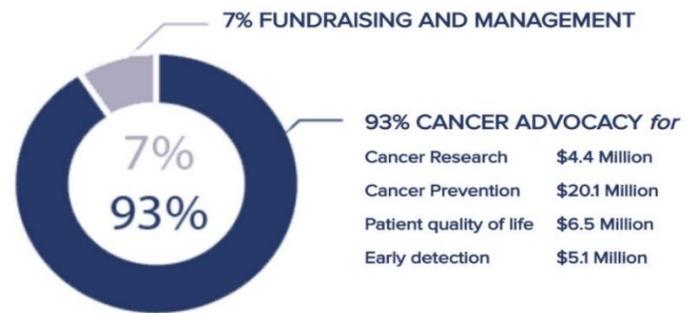
Hawaii has congressional targets relating to co-sponsorship of bills and budget appropriations. Mahalo for taking action when it counts!



Your story is important to us.
[Share](#) your story with us today!

We are actively collecting and seeking stories to help us on federal issues to help our advocacy efforts. Contact your staff partner, Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org to get involved and share your story.

WHERE DOES ACS CAN MONEY GO?



INCREASING HEALTH EQUITY

Despite the fact that US cancer death rates have decreased by 26 percent from 1991 to 2015, not all Americans have benefited equally from the advances in prevention, early detection, and treatments that have helped achieve these lower rates. Significant differences persist in cancer incidence, survival, morbidity, and mortality among specific populations in the US. Research shows that racial/ethnic minorities, individuals of lower socio-economic status, and other medically under-served groups continue to have higher cancer rates and are less likely to be diagnosed early or receive optimal treatment compared to other groups.

Public policy interventions are critical for substantially reducing and eliminating cancer disparities. In order to address gaps in health outcomes, a multi-prong approach must include enhanced prevention and early detection, increased access to coverage and treatment across all populations; and delivery of care in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. Continued research – particularly on ways to collect disparities data, implement public health interventions, and better prevent, detect, and cure many cancers that disproportionately affect medically underserved populations – is also critical.

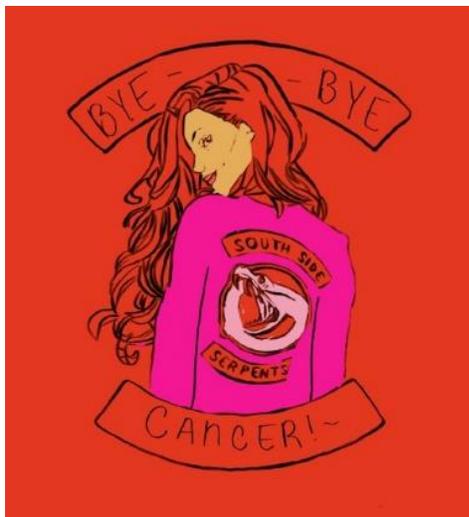
[Cancer Disparities: A Chartbook](#) illustrates the scope of cancer disparities that exist across our nation. ACS CAN is actively pursuing evidence-based public policies at the local, state, and federal levels that seek to reduce these disparities and improve health outcomes for all US population groups regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or zip code.



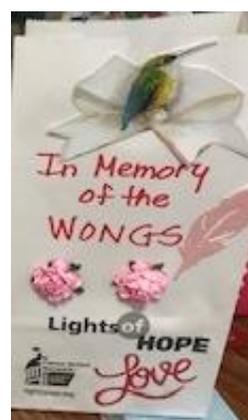
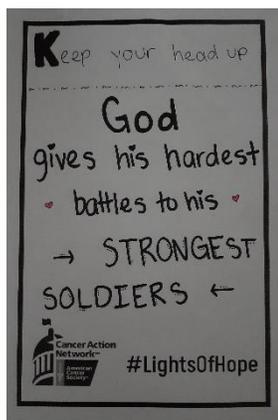
ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific will display Lights of Hope (LOH) for the Lights of Hope Across America Bringing Hope Home on Saturday, September 12th to honor friends and family touched by cancer. We encourage you to view the display throughout the day to help us honor, remember, and celebrate our loved ones. More details to follow.

Contact your ACS CAN staff partner, Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org if you would like to support this event.

Youth Advocate Leana Abe Winning Bag design for "Bye-Bye Cancer!"



Mahalo to all the participants in the Bag Decorating contest!



Help us reach our fundraising goal before the *Lights of Hope Across America* event by supporting breast cancer survivor and advocate, State Lead Ambassador Uri Marto's [Lights of Hope page](#). If you prefer to donate by mailing a check, please make checks to "ACS CAN" and send to:

ACS CAN
2370 Nu'uauu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

Be sure to add a note with the name of the person your LOH bag is dedicated in honor to and that it is for LOH. Staff will decorate the LOH bags on your behalf or instructions can be sent to you on how you can decorate one. Your donation automatically comes with a year of ACS CAN membership to support our work.

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



BEE POSITIVE!

Check out LOH bags made across the country by looking up [#LightsofHope](#) on social media.



Uri's CoCoNutty Granola Snack

This month's healthy cooking demo dish is Uri's [CoCoNutty Granola Snack](#) brought to you by State Lead Ambassador Uri Martos. Uri says, "I love, love, love coconuts so here is a fun and yummy CoCoNutty granola recipe

great for breakfast or snacking. My favorite way to enjoy this CoCoNutty granola is to put it on top of my coconut yogurt and adding some fruits like banana or ripe mango to it. You can also add some chopped, fresh pineapple to this and have yourself a yummy pina colada treat!"

If you missed [Chelsea's Chicken Sausage Stir-Fry](#) last month, you can still check it out. Contact Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org if you would like to host a cooking demo.

Upcoming Events!

- August 19: LOH online challenge - 24 Lights of Hope Bags in 24 hours
- September 12: Lights of Hope Across America



We know you have been cooking at home. Share your ono recipes with us! ACS CAN is collaborating with ACS Hawaii-Pacific on a healthy digital cookbook made of recipes submitted by YOU! We need your help on this project. Share an original favorite recipe to be included in the cookbook*. All proceeds from digital cookbook sales will benefit both ACS CAN and ACS to continue our fight against cancer. Digital cookbook will be completed in the fall.

Send recipes or questions to Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org. *Recipes cannot be directly copied from any printed or online cookbook.



Save the Date!

Access to Clinical Trials Virtual Event

October 13 (2:00 - 3:30 pm)

FREE – More details to follow

ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific will host a virtual policy forum on ensuring access to clinical trials. The forum will convene advocates, policy makers, health care partners, and volunteers to provide education on the ability of clinical trials to provide cutting-edge cancer treatments to patients in Hawaii and Guam. Join us as we explore how to encourage cancer patients to enroll in clinical trials.

Clinical trials are an integral part of cancer research and treatment. For many cancer patients, enrolling in a clinical trial provides a chance to receive cutting edge cancer treatments and innovations along with curative treatments. Enrollees receive the same or higher standard of care. Despite these promising treatments, many eligible cancer patients do not enroll in clinical trials. Cancer advocates need to change this dynamic to advance cures and treatments for cancer patients.