

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Hawaii-Guam Newsletter – June 2021



The Legislature passes a bill defunding tobacco prevention control!

The Hawai'i State Capitol remained closed to the public throughout the 2021 legislative session as lawmakers focused efforts on the economic impact of the pandemic and balancing the State budget. ACS CAN opposed bills impacting tobacco prevention and cancer research. Although this session was virtual, this did not stop ACS CAN advocates and volunteers from participating in our very first virtual Cancer Action Day on March 17. Advocates connected with lawmakers and shared legislative priorities in the fight against cancer.

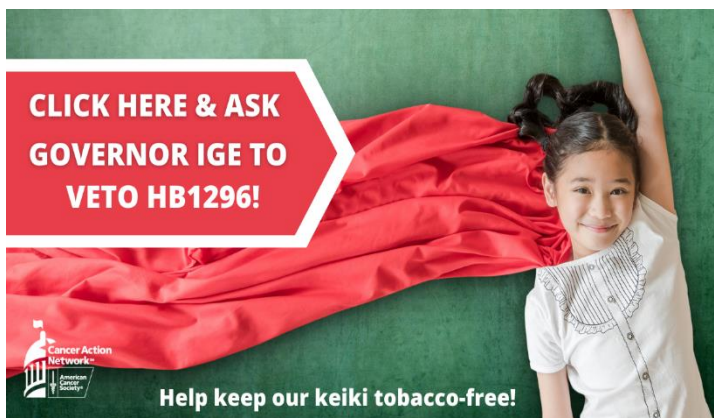
On Cancer Action Day, ACS CAN advocates asked lawmakers to preserve the Tobacco Prevention Control and Cessation special fund which has helped the decline of tobacco use for over twenty years in Hawaii from a 1999 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) reached between the State and tobacco companies to address future health costs from tobacco use. 12.5% from MSA is allocated to the special fund to prevent youth from starting tobacco use, cessation efforts to help adults quit tobacco, and to keep the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline running. Advocates also asked lawmakers to support cancer research for treatments to improve cancer patients' and survivors' quality of life.



ACS CAN volunteers excited to participate in this year's virtual Cancer Action Day!

In the end, the legislature passed [HB1296](#) which repeals the Tobacco Prevention Control and Cessation Trust Fund in 2025 and also includes a section restricting cancer research funding. The bill now sits at Governor David Ige's desk and [**we need your help to ask Governor Ige to oppose and veto a bad bill.**](#)

Take ACTION Today!



ACS CAN in the news...

Letters to the Editor by advocates
[Star Advertiser](#) by Jenny Hausler, 2/22
[The Maui News](#) by Kellen King, 3/2
[Hawaii Tribune Herald](#) by Lokelani Chong, 3/3
[West Hawaii Today](#) by Gay Okada, 3/9
[Star Advertiser](#) by Tyler Kamisato, 6/8

[Island Voices](#), Star Advertiser 3/14
[Hawaii Tribune Herald](#) 3/14
[Hawaii Tribune Herald](#) 4/29



Volunteer Spotlight – Tyler Kamisato

Aloha! My name is Tyler Kamisato, I am currently a senior pursuing a major in public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. A requirement for my graduation in this field is to complete a "capstone project" where I apply what I've learned over the past few years into real career situations. The interests for my capstone project directly aligns to what ACS CAN works towards, that being cancer prevention and education. I'm very passionate about banning the sale of tobacco related products and through volunteering at ACS CAN, I am able to educate myself on the legislative process and make connections with representatives who are for bills relating to tobacco prevention.



Lights of Hope Across America 2021

This September, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will celebrate the 11th year of Lights of Hope. Lights of Hope is ACS CAN's signature fundraising event, dedicated to honoring those who have been touched by cancer and remembering those lost to the disease. With tens of thousands of Lights of Hope displayed across America, we'll be hosting a live event to bring everyone together virtually for a fabulous program. We hope to collect more than 50,000 bags that will shine all across America as we bring hope home on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Although this year may not look the same, we are bringing hope home. Funds raised through Lights of Hope enable ACS CAN to continue its mission to make fighting cancer a priority with lawmakers in your community, at your state legislature and in Congress.

ACS CAN Hawai'i will be honoring our fellow 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 and will include touching messages of support, encouragement and remembrance for those who have fought cancer, been a caregiver or lost a loved one. Help us band together to show support to fight this disease.

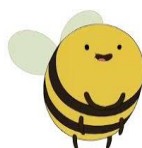


[Purchase a Lights of Hope bag today!](#)

Your bag automatically comes with an ACS CAN membership. You can renew your membership by purchasing a [Lights of Hope](#) bag today!

For more information, contact your Hawaii-Pacific Staff Partner, Cynthia Au, at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org or 808-432-9139.

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



BEE POSITIVE!

Things will always have a way of working themselves out! It has been a very surprising and stressful year to say the least, make sure to remind yourself that you are doing the best you can!