
Welcome!

**We will begin shortly.
In the meantime please follow us on
Twitter and Facebook!**

 @ACSCANHI

 @acscanhi

#HICancerActionDay



2026 Hawaii Cancer Action Day Pre-Event Training

17 MARCH, 2026

 @ACSCANHI



@acscanhi

Welcome & Agenda

- 1 **Cancer Action Day Schedule/Location**
- 2 **Overview of Legislative Priorities**
- 3 **The Flow of a Lawmaker Meeting**
- 4 **Meeting Roleplay**
- 5 **Questions and Housekeeping**



Where, When, How

Cancer Action Day Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** Check-In Hawaii State Capitol RM 437
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.** Welcome and Cancer Action Day Overview
- Welcome
 - Logistics / Overview of Day
 - 2026 Legislative Priorities
 - Lawmaker Remarks
- 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm** Lawmaker Meetings
- 11:30 a.m.** Senate Chamber
- 12:00 p.m.** House Chamber
- 12:30 p.m.** Group Photo/ Lunch
- 3:00 p.m.** Adjourn
- Thank you cards
 - Report Back Forms- Online

Cancer Action Day Location



**Park & Carpool from ACS Office:
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM
2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue**



**Event: Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St. – RM 437**

***Please bring a photo ID**

How: Navigating the Capitol

Event: Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St. - RM 437

1. Entrance to the State Capitol is on the Street level on Beretani or Chamber level (underground parking).

- The capitol is under construction, you will see large murals surrounding the capitol. Find the stairs on Beretania side or from Iolani Palace side.

Security checkpoint:

- - No firearms or weapons are allowed.
- - If you have a purse, keep your keys and phone in it.
- - If you do not have a purse, security will provide a container to put these in.
- **BRING YOUR ID** or you will not be able to enter.



2. Once through the checkpoint, take the elevator up to the 4th floor, and look for Room 437.

- We will provide coffee and very light pastries, however if you would like any additional food/drink, there is a snack shop on the chamber level or eateries in downtown.

Look for the group in blue shirts! You'll see our smiling faces when you get there!



Why we advocate



Vision: End cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Mission: Improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Patient Support



Action through advocacy



Advancing discovery





Scope of our advocacy

What we advocate for

Access to Care



Accelerating Cures



Prevention, including Tobacco Control



Eliminating Disparities + Building Health Equity



Recent Hawai'i Wins

**RESEARCH &
HEALTH EQUITY**

**Multi-ethnic
cohort study
ACT 254**

Tobacco Prevention & Control:

Exempt Cigar shipments by mail – Opposed, Died

Keeping Smoke-Free Air – Opposed, Died

..And volunteers make all the difference





State Legislative Priorities

State Priorities

ACCESS

**Ensure
Access:
Colorectal
Cancer
Screenings**

**Health Equity &
Cancer Research**

**Funding
Hawaii
Tumor
Registry**

ACCESS

**Ensure Access:
Biomarker
Testing
Coverage**

Legislative Asks



Increase Access to Colorectal Cancer Screenings

Increasing Access to Colorectal Screening

SUPPORT House Bill 1969 HD2: Relating to Colorectal Cancer

This bill:

- Ensures more patients have access to colorectal screening in Hawai'i, including the follow-up colonoscopy needed after a positive noninvasive screening test.
- Provides funding for colorectal cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured patients.

**Colorectal
Screening**

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness month!

Colorectal Screening

A recent study found that colorectal cancer is now the leading cause of cancer deaths among people 50 years and younger—making it the fastest-growing cancer threat for working-age adults.

CRC is the second leading cause of cancer death in Hawaii and the U.S for men and women combined.

- **In Hawai'i in 2026:**
 - Nearly 840 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer
 - An estimated 260 will die from the disease
 - Nearly 59% are diagnosed late stage
- **Preventable:** Most colorectal deaths in the U.S. are preventable through screening.
- **Barriers:** Affordability - Cost is one of the most significant barriers to screening.
 - Given the impact of HRI on Medicaid, it's anticipated that more residents will be uninsured, creating an additional barrier to screening.

Ensure Access to Colorectal Cancer Screenings

Colorectal Screening

Public assistance funding for CRC screening including colonoscopy after a positive noninvasive test for uninsured and underinsured residents would:

- Prevent cancer through early polyp removal
- Catch cancer earlier when treatment success is highest
- Reduce long-term treatment costs
- Protect communities most impacted by coverage gaps, especially changes in health care coverage
- High-value investment, with significant health equity impact.

ASK: Will you support HB 1969 HD2 to help ensure more Hawai'i residents receive timely, life-saving colorectal cancer screenings?



Fund Hawai'i's Tumor Registry

Fund Hawai'i Tumor Registry

Support House Bill 1970 HD2

Funding Hawai'i Tumor Registry

Federal cuts to the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program have reduced Hawaii Tumor Registry (HTR) funding by over 20%.

- Cancer remains the second leading cause of death in Hawaii
- In Hawaii, there will be 9,400 new cancer diagnoses and over 2,400 cancer deaths this year.
- HTR is the state's only comprehensive cancer surveillance program - the backbone of cancer surveillance in our islands.
 - Under the UH Cancer Center

Fund Hawaii Tumor Registry HB 1970 HD2

Funding Hawai'i Tumor Registry

Hawai'i is one of the most diverse states in the country and HTR helps to identify disparities.

Provides the information for clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to:

- Target cancer screening programs in underserved communities
- Rapid response to cancer clusters
- Identify emerging trends and other urgent public health concern
- Monitor trends and guide prevention strategies

ASK: Will you support HB 1970 HD2 to prevent cuts to Hawai'i's cancer surveillance system and protect critical public health data?

 @ACSCANHI

 @acscanhi

Access to Biomarker Testing Coverage

What are biomarkers?

Biomarkers - a characteristic that is objectively measured and evaluated as an indicator of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes, or pharmacologic responses to a specific therapeutic intervention. Includes *gene mutations* or *protein expression*.

The right treatment at the right time

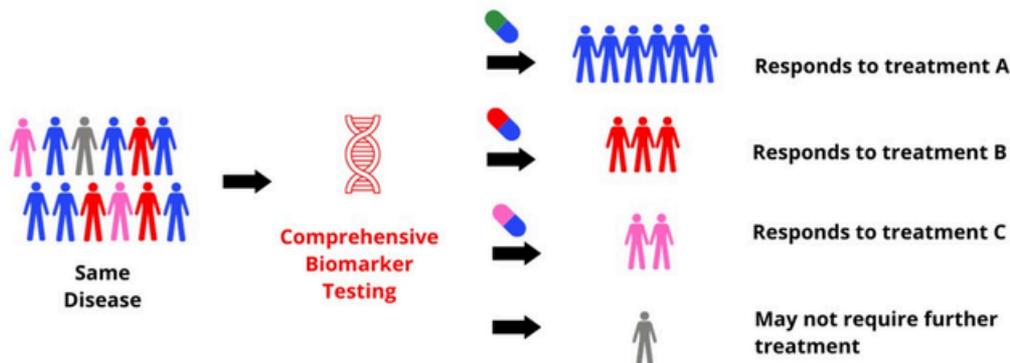
- An essential component of precision medicine
- Targeted cancer therapy
- Avoidance of therapies unlikely to provide clinical benefit

Not just about cancer:

- Being explored in a variety of disease areas (e.g., cardiology, rheumatology, neurology, infectious, respiratory, autoimmune diseases)

Precision Medicine with Biomarker-Informed Treatment Selection

**Ensure Access:
Biomarker
Testing
Coverage**



Who should get tested and why?

The role of clinical guidelines in determining appropriate testing

- Several professional associations have cancer biomarker testing and treatment guidelines
 - National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), others
- Helps assure that testing and treatment take advantage of the latest knowledge
- Biomarker testing has become the standard of care in certain cancers

Patients who receive biomarker testing and are eligible for and receive targeted cancer therapy have better outcomes.

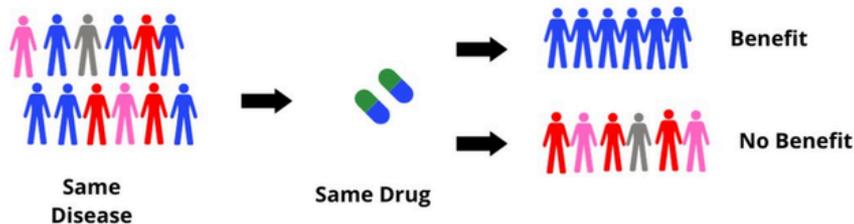
Ensure Access to Biomarker Testing: HCR 35 and SCR 76

Ensure Access: Biomarker Testing Coverage

Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.

- Require state-regulated insurance plans including Medicaid to cover comprehensive biomarker testing when supported by medical and scientific evidence.
- Disease and stage agnostic – Biomarker testing is applicable to other conditions beyond oncology: heart disease; Alzheimer's disease; neurological conditions; rare disease; infectious disease; respiratory illness.

Conventional Approach – Trial and Error



 @ACSCANHI

 @ACSCANHI

 @acscanhi

Ensure Access to Biomarker Testing: HCR 35 and SCR 76

- Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovation and advancement in treatment.
- 23 states have recently passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing.
- Access to appropriate biomarker testing can help to achieve better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced costs.

**Ensure Access:
Biomarker
Testing
Coverage**

The ASK: Will you support an auditor's study to assess the effects of social and financial impacts for biomarker testing coverage, SCR 76 and HCR 35?

Michael's Story



Hawai'i wins would mean

ACCESS

More Hawai'i residents will have access to colorectal cancer screening

Health Equity & Cancer Research

Healthier Hawai'i and supporting cancer surveillance program

ACCESS

More patients can get the right treatment at the right time

Questions?



Lawmaker Meetings

Hook, Line, Sinker

Hook

Who You Are

Line

**What Is Your
Story**

Sinker

The Request

Thank You

Appreciation

Hook

Introductions

Meeting leader introduces the group (name + geography).

Who you are, where you're from

Who else is in your group

Line

Craft your story:

- **You know your passion**
- **You know your cancer connection**
- **You know the ASK**
- **You have your talking points**

Tell your personal story:

- **Connect your story to the importance of the ASKS**
- **Explain the need: why this is needed/impact on state/why important for cancer etc.)**

The Sinker

Make the ASK/s

Secure a response from the lawmaker

Today we are asking if you would support the following priorities:

- Will you support HB 1969 HD2 to help ensure more Hawai'i residents receive timely, life-saving colorectal cancer screenings?
- Will you support HB 1970 HD2 to prevent cuts to Hawai'i's cancer surveillance system and protect critical public health data?
- Will you support an auditor's study to assess the effects of health insurance coverage for biomarker testing, SCR 76 and HCR 35?

Hook, Line, Sinker

Hook

Meeting leader starts their introduction, then everyone else in group introduces themselves (name + where you live).

I am here as a volunteer for ACS CAN. We are meeting with nearly every Member of the [State] Legislature.

We would like your support on the passage of [Insert Ask]?

Line

Explain the need: (INSERT why this is needed/impact on state/why important for cancer etc.)

Tell your personal story: Connect your personal story to the importance of the ask/issue.

Sinker

Make the ask!

Wrapping it up!

Response options depending on response lawmaker gives to your asks:

- If answer is YES: “Thank you so much for your support and for meeting with us today.”
- If answer is UNSURE: “Can we get you any more information on the issue to gain your support? Can I leave my contact information in case you have further questions when deciding how you will vote?”
- If answer is NO: “Thank you for your time and consideration today, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have further questions prior to your final vote on this important issue.”

Close

- Direct questions about asks
- If you don't know the answer to a question, let them know you will follow up
- Ask to take a photo!

 @ACSCANHI

 @acscanhi

Lawmaker Meeting Roleplay

Report Back



Report back and let us know how your meeting went

Your feed back helps our staff provide additional information to lawmakers and make strategic decisions in successful campaigns.

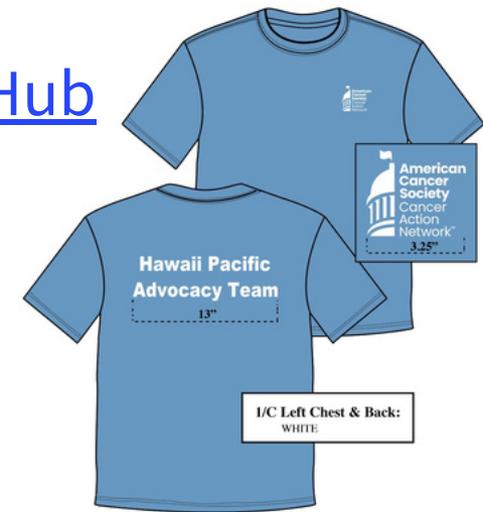
Remember: One report back form should be completed for each lawmaker meeting.



Scan the QR code or visit:
www.fightcancer.org/reportback

Housekeeping

- Representing ACS CAN
- What to wear, masks (?), capitol protocol - ID to enter the capitol
- Event website: [2026 Cancer Action Day Hub](#)
- Who is my legislator?
- Parking and meet up point
- Cynthia Au:
 - Cynthia.Au@cancer.org
 - 808.392.3229



Lawmaker Meeting Do's

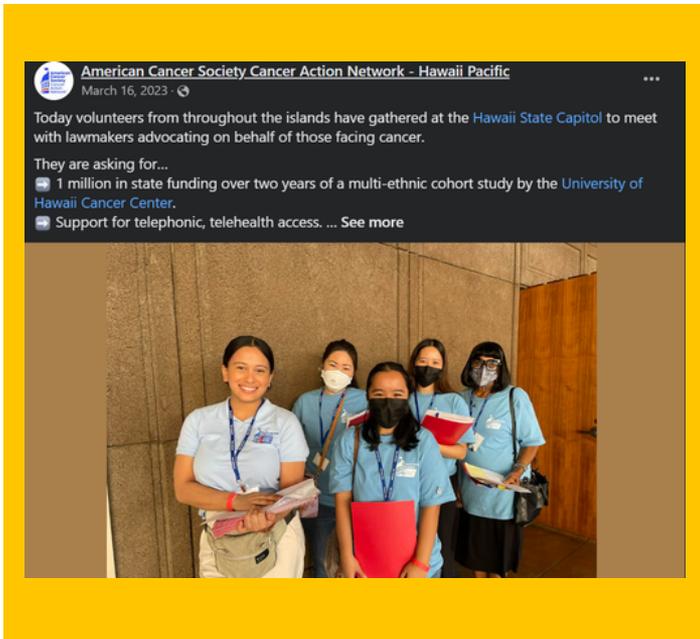
- Do arrive a few minutes early
- Be prepared to wait as most lawmakers are not able to be on time
- Introduce yourself and tell the legislator where you are from
- Stay on message
- Know the “asks” and use a fact to back it up
- Be efficient and articulate; the meeting should be brief and concise
- Ask for your legislator’s support for the issue
- Stop discussing the issue if you get a “Yes”
- Thank the lawmaker (be sure to also send a thank-you note)
- Get excited!

Lawmaker Meeting Don'ts

- Do not attempt to answer questions you don't know the answer or commit to anything you aren't certain of
- Silence your phones
- Do not get angry or hostile
- Do not get distracted by small talk
- Do not mention your political affiliation – fighting cancer is bi-partisan!
- Do not send materials that aren't provided in your packet
- Do not lobby on other issues
- Do not get defensive if an elected official doesn't support our legislation

This is the beginning of a relationship; make a plan for ongoing advocacy engagement.

Let's Takeover Social Media



@ACSCANHI **@acscanhi**

- **Tag your lawmaker**
- **#HICancerActionDay**
- **Share your experience & the Ask**
- **Don't forget to engage with others**



THANK YOU

SEE YOU SOON