American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Newsletter

Hawai‘i Advances Cancer Care Through New Legislation

This year, Hawai‘i took meaningful steps to reduce barriers to cancer prevention, treatment, and survivorship with the passage of three new laws.

ACT 219, expands access to colorectal cancer screening by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for follow-up colonoscopies after a positive screening test and providing $1.8 million in state funding to help eligible uninsured residents access screening and follow-up care. By removing financial barriers, this legislation will help more Hawai‘i residents access lifesaving early detection and treatment.



Newly Signed into Law

HB1969 (ACT219) Expands access to colorectal cancer screening and follow-up care	**HB1864 (ACT218)** Increases access to fertility preservation services for cancer patients	**SB3025 (ACT220)** Provides support to help reduce the burden of medical debt for Hawai‘i residents

ACS CAN volunteers joined lawmakers, advocates, and community leaders at the bill signing ceremony, including Representative Cory Chun and Dr. Shane Morita.

These new laws reflect years of advocacy, coalition-building, education, and persistent engagement with policymakers. They are the result of countless conversations, compelling personal stories, and the dedication of volunteers, cancer survivors, healthcare providers, coalition partners, and legislative champions.

With the signing of these measures, Hawai‘i is advancing a shared goal: improving the lives of people impacted by cancer. Together, we are building a future where every person in Hawai‘i has a fair and equitable opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

In The Media: Aloha State Daily | KHON2 | Hawaii News Now | Maui Now | Fight Colorectal Cancer Facebook



Sign online petition!

Biomarker Testing Coverage Update

Thanks to the dedication of patients, caregivers, health care professionals, and advocates across Hawai‘i, legislators heard directly from people affected by cancer and other serious diseases, as well as from experts who highlighted the critical role biomarker testing plays in helping patients receive the most effective treatment for their specific condition.

Hawai‘i lawmakers directed the state auditor to examine how covering biomarker testing could help patients and affect healthcare costs. This study could help show that when patients have access to biomarker testing, doctors may be better able to match them with the right treatment at the right time, improving their chances of better outcomes, and helping ensure more people have access to personalized cancer care. We will continue working in 2027 to pass legislation to expand access to this important testing.

Add your name to our life-saving mission!!

For questions, contact Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@cancer.org

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Newsletter

Hawai'i Advocates Take Action in Washington, D.C.



From September 13-16, cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, and advocates from across Hawai'i traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in ACS CAN's Leadership Summit and Lobby Day alongside nearly 800 advocates from across the nation.

Advocates urged support for the Clinical Trial Modernization Act, legislation that would help reduce financial barriers to clinical trial participation and expand access for rural and underserved communities. Advocates also called for the highest possible federal investment in cancer research, emphasizing that sustained funding has driven lifesaving advances in cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship.

Mahalo to Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Mazie Hirono, Congressman Ed Case, and Representative Jill Tokuda who took time to meet with Hawai'i advocates.

In The Media: [Kauai Now]







Lights of Hope ACROSS AMERICA BRINGING HOPE HOME



Lights of Hope, ACS CAN's signature fundraising event, honors those whose lives have been touched by cancer while remembering loved ones lost to the disease. This year, advocates from across the country gathered at Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C., for the 16th annual Lights of Hope Walk. Following meetings with members of Congress, participants joined in a moving ceremony and walk that served as a powerful call to action.



This year, Hawai'i proudly recognized Beverly Wong, "Auntie Bev," for her outstanding advocacy, leadership, and more than 40 years of lasting contributions. Today, Beverly continues to fight on behalf of her son, Arnold, whose cancer treatment reflects the impact of the research advances his mother has long championed. Her dedication exemplifies the profound difference advocates can make in advancing policies that improve lives and bring hope to those affected by cancer.

For questions, contact Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@cancer.org

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Newsletter

2027 Legislative Priorities

In 2027, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will work with the Hawai'i State Legislature on legislative and regulatory efforts that provide affordable, adequate access to lifesaving cancer screening and prevention programs, health equity and improved coverage for cancer treatment. We will be making the following fact-based policies a priority and ask for your support:

Hawai'i Tumor Registry & Cancer Research: ACS CAN will work to protect and increase appropriations to support the Hawai'i Tumor Registry which provides the data-driven foundation for the state cancer control efforts and only cancer surveillance program in Hawai'i.

Reducing the Tobacco Toll - Local Decision-Making Authority: ACS CAN will advocate for legislation to grant authority to local governments to pass, implement and enforce local tobacco control laws that go beyond state laws to help families be safer and healthier.

Access to Biomarker Testing: ACS CAN will advocate for improved coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing. Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to better diagnose and treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients, but insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovations and advances in treatment.

Save the Date

2027 Cancer Action Day

February 10 | Honolulu, Hawai'i

Join volunteers, activists, survivors and caregivers from across the state as we meet at the state capitol and tell lawmakers:

It's time to get serious about helping people facing cancer.

- Participants will meet with their state lawmakers and/or staff aides.
  - First-time attendees will be partnered with veterans to mentor them.
- The event is free to attend.
  - All attendees must register and attend a pre-event webinar/call.
- No experience is necessary.
- Lunch and snacks will be provided.

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit:
https://act.fightcancer.org/a/hi-cad-2027-interest-form

For questions, contact Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@cancer.org

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Newsletter

Help Continue ACS CAN's Fight Against Cancer!

$2650 away from fundrasing goal!

Click here or scan the QR code to renew your annual ACS CAN membership!

You're Invited

LEGISLATIVE TALK STORY

Wednesday, January 13
5:30-6:30 pm

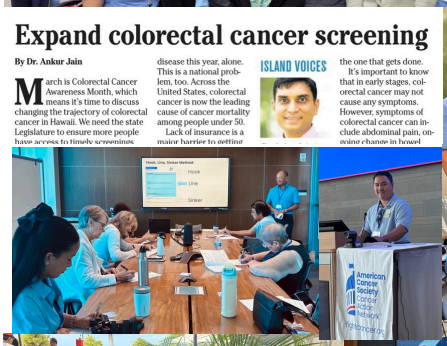
Register: here

ACS CAN: In Action

- Cancer Action Day
- Testifying in person
- Written Testimony
- Letters to the Editor
- Federal Recess Activities
- Out in the community






Expand colorectal cancer screening
By Dr. Ankur Jain
March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, which means it's time to discuss changing the trajectory of colorectal cancer in Hawaii. We need the state Legislature to ensure more people
disease this year, alone. This is a national problem, too. Across the United States, colorectal cancer is now the leading cause of cancer mortality among people under 50.
Lack of insurance is a
ISLAND VOICES
the one that gets done.
It's important to know that in early stages, colorectal cancer may not cause any symptoms. However, symptoms of colorectal cancer can include abdominal pain, on-





For questions, contact Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@cancer.org