

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



Jenny Hausler, Hawaii's first State Lead Ambassador shares why she buys a Lights of Hope bag each year

I attended over 17 Relay for Life events in Hawaii and always loved the idea of lighting a Luminaria Bag for loved ones fighting cancer and to remember those who have passed away. As the first State Lead Ambassador in 2006, Lights of Hope had not yet become a part of the tradition of Leadership Summit and Lobby Day in Washington D.C., but I have sent hundreds of Lights of Hope (LOH) bags over the

years for loved ones. I support Lights of Hope because it sends a visual message to lawmakers, survivors and their families on the impact of cancer that I believe has helped to save many lives through the enactment of laws and in research funding. I am excited that this year I get to take part in "Bringing Hope Home" by lighting my bags in the islands. I have lost many to this terrible disease including husbands, sisters, many relatives and close friends but they are not forgotten.

Due to current stay at home orders, Lights of Hope this year will be a virtual celebration on Saturday, September 12. Join me at 10:00 am HST online to watch [Lights of Hope Across America](#) where LOH events happening in towns and cities will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. The livestream event will also showcase Hawaii's current State Lead Ambassador, Uri Martos, who will share why she celebrates hope in Hawaii.

If you would like to support my volunteer advocacy work, you can dedicate a bag today on my [Lights of Hope](#) page. If you prefer to donate by mailing a check, please make checks to "ACS CAN" and mail 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 of. 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. Please send donations by September 7th for us to process and decorate your Lights of Hope bags before September 12.



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FEDERAL UPDATE

Federal Stimulus/COVID Relief Package: As you may have seen the news, four executive actions were taken earlier this month:

- Providing a \$400 a week unemployment benefit (if states meet requirements);
- 2) Waiving student loan interest through the end of the year;
- 3) Outlining steps to explore eviction relief; and
- 4) deferring federal tax withholding for some taxpayers through the end of the year. Beyond these items, it's unclear how and whether negotiations continue to move forward. Both houses are technically in session and subject to callback by leadership at any time.

Specific to ACS CAN advocacy:

- 170 House and Senate Members signed on to increasing research funding in a Dear Colleague letter. Mahalo to Senator Mazie Hirono for responding to our ask and signing on the Dear Colleague letter.

Hawaii has congressional targets relating to co-sponsorship of bills and budget appropriations. Mahalo for taking action when it counts. Follow on social media or look out for national action alerts!



Hawaii-Pacific Advocacy Team visiting the Office of Senator Mazie Hirono at Lobby Day in 2019. From left to right: Colten Moore, Uri Martos, Senator Mazie Hirono, Chelsea Gonzales, Cynthia Au

Planning for 2020 National Leadership Summit & Lobby Day

September's annual ACS CAN Leadership Summit & Lobby Day (LSLD) will look and feel different than in years' past given the pandemic, but the core identity of the event is unchanged: to bring the cancer patient voice to Capitol Hill and urge Congress to make cancer a top priority. Your State Lead Ambassador, Uri Martos, and Ambassador Congressional Team (ACT) Leads Colten Moore and Chelsea Gonzales will advocate on key cancer issues along with other volunteers across the US and territories. Together we will meet with Hawaii's congressional delegation virtually and by phone to make specific asks to address the needs of cancer patients, their caregivers and families.



Colten Moore, ACT LEAD – CD2, shares ideas with fellow advocates during a training session in 2019.

We often say “cancer hasn't stopped so neither can we.” This year has presented unique challenges to cancer patients and their families, delaying treatment and research, impacting patients' ability to pay for care, and straining public health and health care systems. Now more than ever, we are finding ways to advance our mission.



Uri Martos (SLA) and Chelsea Gonzales (ACT Lead CD - 1) take time to reflect and remember loved ones at Lights of Hope 2019.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



NATALIE NIMMER

Aloha! I am a survivor of 5 years and I support the mission of ACS CAN because I believe in the power and function of the government to respond to the needs of people. Health related legislation can make a difference for so many people who are touched by

cancer. My mom had cancer twice and passed from the disease while I survived a different type of cancer. I became an ACS CAN member in July 2016 during a Relay for Life event. I didn't know that I could use my voice to advocate for cancer issues until I learned about the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and was encouraged by the current State Lead Ambassador, Uri Martos, to participate in advocacy including Cancer Awareness Day at the Capitol. My passion truly is in outreach and inclusion of marginalized groups like the Micronesian community and I have volunteered to connect these survivors with ACS CAN. There are opportunities for the Micronesian population to impact healthcare in a broad scope and to be seen as an asset to the community. They have a disproportionately higher cancer rate, which makes them uniquely qualified to advocate about cancer prevention and treatment. I am very excited that ACS CAN helps my voice to be heard.



We are actively collecting and seeking stories to help us on state and federal issues to help our advocacy efforts. [Share](#) your story!

Cynthia's SOS Recipe



This month's healthy cooking demo dish is from Grassroots Manager Cynthia Au. "I am excited to share a five-ingredient recipe passed to me because I am not the best cook, but this recipe never goes wrong." Check out [Cynthia's SOS](#) cooking demo today!

If you missed Uri's [CoCoNutty Granola Snack](#) or [Chelsea's Chicken Sausage Stir-Fry](#), you can still check them out and try them in your kitchen.



Share your ono recipes with us!

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 Hawaii-Guam to continue the fight against cancer. The 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.

Upcoming Events

A lot of exciting upcoming events in the works!

- 9/12: Lights of Hope Across America
- 9/14: CAN Opener Comedy Show
- 9/12 – 15 Leadership Summit & Lobby Day
- 10/13 Access to Clinical Trials Virtual Event



BEE POSITIVE

Don't forget to take breaks! Whether you are working from home or an essential worker, taking breaks is essential for productivity and well-being. Make it a priority to stand up and stretch a few times during the day!

2020 CAN OPENER
Tuesday, September 15th | 7 P.M. (Eastern)
Join us for a night of
Fun & Laughter
Tickets \$25
www.fightcancer.org/canopener
Deadline to purchase ticket:
September 14th at Noon (Eastern)
Collect \$200 or more in Lights of Hope donations by 10pm (Eastern) on September 12th for a free ticket!
(All money must be entered into CANraiser by the deadline to be eligible)

COMEDY SHOW

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Cancer Action Network™
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Save the Date!

Access to Clinical Trials Virtual Event

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

FREE – Check FightCancer.Org to register in September

ACS CAN Hawaii-Guam 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.