

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Hawaii-Pacific Newsletter – September 2020



Aloha ACS CAN ohana! Like many things in 2020, Leadership Summit and Lobby Day looked completely different this year. Normally we would fly to Washington D.C. and meet with advocates from across the country. We would come together to share our cancer stories, reflect and celebrate our loved ones. We would take the time to learn about different policies that would improve cancer patient's lives and advocate on Capitol Hill with our State's Members of Congress. Due to COVID-19, myself along with many other volunteers from across the country went virtual to make cancer a priority. We met with the offices of Rep. Ed Case, Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Rep. Michael San Nicolas (Guam), and Senator Brian Schatz and asked for their support to increase federal funding for cancer research and prevention programs and to improve equitable access to cancer clinical trials for underrepresented populations, including communities of minorities, people in rural and low-income areas. By removing barriers to participation, more people will be able to access the latest treatment and researchers will be able to enroll enough people to do their lifesaving work. I encourage you to join us, giving us a stronger and louder voice in the fight against cancer. Visit [FightCancer.Org](https://www.fightcancer.org) to be connected to people like me in your community.

Be well & malama pono,
Chelsea Gonzales, ACT Lead CD-1

Bringing the Voices of Cancer Patients to Capitol Hill, One Call at a Time

Nearly 600 participants donned their signature blue polo shirts and other ACS CAN gear on September 15 to make sure cancer is a top priority on Capitol Hill...right from their own living rooms! After extensive training, volunteers dialed into more than 450 virtual meetings with nearly every congressional office, including 141 member-level meetings and 201 senior-level meetings. Advocates urged their lawmakers to:

- Support increased funding for cancer research and prevention programs with at least \$44.7 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$6.9 billion for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and \$559 million for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer programs.
- Cosponsor the Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act, to analyze current policies in cancer clinical trials that directly impact participation rates for under-represented groups in Federal agencies.



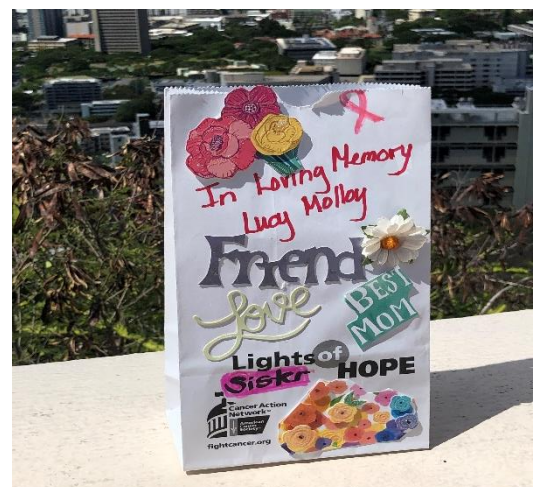


Volunteers Bring Hope to Communities Across America

We celebrated our 10th annual Lights of Hope on Saturday, September 12th by honoring our loved ones with **52,000 decorated bags** dedicated to all those whose lives have been touched by cancer. The hour-long livestream event featured dozens of stunning Lights of Hope displays in every location you could think of – neighborhood parks, front porches, backyards, driveways, windowsills and even iconic landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge, Times Square, and Hawai'i. Volunteers from cities nationwide shared the stories behind their poignant tributes and their motivation to be a cancer advocate.

In Hawaii, our very own Uri Martos shared about the Lights of Hope bag she dedicated in honor to her mom, Sun Martos. Thanks to you we displayed over 200 bags honoring and remembering loved ones touched by cancer and raised over \$2,000. Nationally, Lights of Hope raised **more than \$720,000** in critical funds for ACS CAN's mission, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers.

Missed the event? You can watch the [replay of the event here](#) and scroll through the many beautiful images shared by volunteers on social media. The Facebook livestream reached an estimated **27,000 people** and to date has been viewed **more than 16,000 times**.



Statement on the Death of Supreme Court Justice and Equal Rights Champion Ruth Bader Ginsburg Sep 18, 2020

The equal rights champion died at home from complications from pancreatic cancer



A statement from **Gary M. Reedy**, CEO of the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) follows:

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg from complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer. On behalf of the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, we extend our deepest condolences to all of Justice Ginsburg’s family.

“Like too many Americans, Justice Ginsburg had an extensive history with cancer, having lost her mother and husband to the disease. She was diagnosed repeatedly with various forms of cancer including colon, lung, and the recurrent pancreatic cancer that eventually claimed her life. However, her personal health history and active survivorship made her an inspiration for many patients and survivors and helped inform her deep commitment to public health policy.

“Justice Ginsburg was one of six justices to uphold the Affordable Care Act, which has given cancer patients and survivors critical access to comprehensive health coverage, including cancer prevention, screening and treatment. The law has also helped reduce cancer disparities along ethnic, racial, and urban and rural lines—an outcome reflective of Justice Ginsburg’s lifelong commitment to equal rights and a powerful example for those of us committed to improving public health in this nation.

“Justice Ginsburg’s resonant voice on so many issues critical to Americans’ wellbeing will be sorely missed. In honor of her and the 1.8 million Americans who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network will continue to strongly advocate for public policies that reduce deaths and suffering from this disease and move us closer to a world without cancer.

Did you know....What issues does ACS CAN work on and why?

- Cancer research funding – A strong and sustained federal investment in cancer research funding will yield scientific breakthroughs that save lives.
- Strong smoke-free laws and higher tobacco taxes – These measures are proven to reduce tobacco use, the largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States.
- Lifesaving screening programs – Programs that increase access to proven cancer screenings,

especially among medically underserved populations, save lives and are good for the economy.

- Access to quality, affordable health care – More than 300,000 people in the United States die from cancer each year because they lack access to affordable, adequate, quality care and treatment, and millions of others are forced to skip lifesaving care or spend their savings to pay for it.
- Nutrition and physical activity – An estimated one out of every three cancer deaths in the United States is linked to excess body weight, poor nutrition, or physical inactivity.

Access to Clinical Trials Virtual Event

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

FREE - [Register Here!](#)

Join us for the ACS CAN Hawaii-Guam Virtual Forum: Advancing Cancer Treatment and Care Through Clinical Trials. During this virtual event, we will explore access, affordability and community driven solutions for cancer care and lessons we have learned.

Nearly 7,398 will be diagnosed with cancer and 2,608 people will die from the disease in Hawaii and Guam every year. 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.

Discussions will include the following topics as we explore how to encourage cancer patients to enroll in clinical trials and include the topic of:

- **Research** – Advancements in medical research have unleashed new and improved therapies that are revolutionizing cancer care.
- **Access** – Related to the importance of accessing timely and safe cancer treatment during COVID-19.
- **Clinical Trials Policies** – learn more about the current policies affecting clinical trials.

Guest speakers include:

- Randall F. Holcombe, MD, MBA - Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
- Samir Ambrale, MD - FHP Medical Center
- Sherell McDearmon, MPA, US Policy & Government Affairs, Bristol Myers Squibb
- Anne Murray, U.S. Policy & Government Affairs, Bristol Myers Squibb

Contact your staff partner, Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org with any questions.

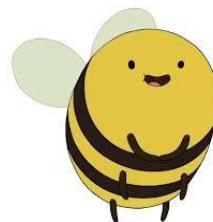


The chef's at ACS CAN took a break this month, but if you did not have a chance to try Uri's [CoCoNutty Granola Snack](#), [Chelsea's Chicken Sausage Stir-Fry](#), or [Cynthia's SOS](#) recipe's - you can still check them out and try them in your kitchen.

Last call to 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 are collecting recipes until the end of October. 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.



BEE POSITIVE

Agenda for today ~ Stay active safely, eat something healthy and take a moment and take in a deep breath.