

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



As 2020 comes to an end

and we prepare for the upcoming 2021 legislative session, the Hawaii Pacific volunteer and staff team will continue the fight to end cancer for the people of Hawaii and across the nation. We recognize that the coming year will continue to have unique challenges as we operate in a mostly virtual world, but know that cancer never stops so neither will we.



With this said, we need your help more than ever with these legislative priorities:

- **Tobacco Control and Prevention:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey released in the summer of this year found that we are losing ground in the fight to protect our keiki from a potential lifetime addiction to tobacco. E-cigarette use among high school students in Hawai'i has increased by 5%. In order to prevent initiation and promote cessation, ACS CAN is advocating to ensure that all forms of tobacco products including electronic smoking devices are regulated including taxation at the same rate as cigarettes, licensing of all tobacco retailers for tax collection and enforcement.
- **Protect and maintain current programs that support our mission of cancer prevention, research and access to care.** As the state government is facing a large budget shortfall next year, programs that support and benefit cancer patients and caretakers may be in jeopardy. ACS CAN will stay vigilant to protect the funding including cancer research and tobacco cessation programs.

We need your help! Your ACS CAN team will keep you updated with any legislative developments, but we need your help. Can we count on you to get involved and take action to continue the fight to end cancer for the people of Hawaii and across the nation? This year we plan to host a volunteer advocacy training, conduct a virtual Cancer Action Day (previously known as Day at the Capitol) and we will be seeking testimonies on various cancer related bills. We want you to be involved! Contact your staff partner, Cynthia Au Cynthia.Au@cancer.org or 808.492.9139 to learn more.

Upcoming events to keep in mind

- 31st Legislative Opening Day: January 20th
- Volunteer Advocacy Training: TBD
- Cancer Awareness Day: TBD

Training opportunities for advocates will be held during the legislative session to equip and familiarize volunteer advocates with the tools to effectively communicate our priorities in this new environment. More information to follow.

Cancer Screen Week

Cancer Screen Week which took place between December 7-11 of this year was particularly important. More than one-third of people living in the U.S. have missed routine cancer screenings due to COVID-19, potentially leading to many cancers being undetected. Prevention and early detection are critical to our mission.

This year alone, there were nearly 1 million fewer mammograms, colorectal cancer screenings, and cervical cancer screenings, compared to previous years. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened potential social determinants of health by creating additional challenges, such as unemployment, potential delays for health appointments, or being at higher risk of COVID-19 infection or complications. **Check out our [Cancer Screening Guidelines](#)**



December 2nd was Giving Tuesday of this month. \$20,500 was raised across the country! Thanks for supporting ACS CAN!



Congratulations to the Kamehameha Ohana Relay Team!

They made CAN Club status this year with over 40 new or renewing ACS CAN memberships in support of the Kamehameha Relay for Life event this year.

If you are a Relay For Life participant and would like to learn more about ACS CAN club, please visit: <https://www.fightcancer.org/relayforlife> or contact your Hawaii-Pacific Staff Partner Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@cancer.org.



We are continually collecting stories to help with our legislative priorities, [share](#) your story or contact your Hawaii-Pacific Staff Partner Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org

