



Racial Injustice and a Commitment to Be Part of the Solution

Cancer CANdor Blog published June 2, 2020

ACS CAN President Lisa Lacasse shares her views on the impact of advocacy on the Cancer fight.

I've spent the last few days trying to come up with the right words to adequately express the outrage, sadness and range of other emotions I've felt following the death of George Floyd last week and the ensuing protests across the country. George Floyd's death, along with others including Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, are the result of senseless brutality against people of color across this country. I realize my desire to say the "right thing" has resulted in a delay in saying anything, which in and of itself has likely sent an unintended message.

I know I join many in the need to get comfortable with discomfort about not saying the right thing. Staying silent, however, is not an option. As a leader, I have a responsibility to ensure that ACS CAN continues to actively engage in conversations that are critical to addressing the issues of racial injustice that have driven health inequality in this country. We cannot shy away from tough conversations - not when lives are at stake.

Systemic racism is a public health issue and our only hope for addressing the cancer burden in a just and equitable way is to fight for public policy solutions that aim at the root causes that undermine access to care for communities of color. We must stand together and partner with individuals and organizations that have been on the front lines fighting for justice and equality and use our platform to push for change.

We are at a critical moment in time – and we cannot and will not let it be a passing moment. We are committed to figuring out the words, listening in this moment and helping with the solutions.

"...Individuals and institutions across the country have a responsibility to ensure equity. Yet, too often our nation falls short. The American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network see the impact every single day through the cancer lens. Cancer is a disease that can affect anyone, but it does not affect everyone equally....

No one should be disadvantaged from fighting cancer because of the color of their skin, and all people deserve a fair opportunity to live long, healthy lives."

ACS CAN is committed to addressing systemic health inequity, just one example of racial inequity in America. For more, please read a [statement](#) from the CEO of the American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Gary Reedy.

STATE UPDATE

In the month of May the legislature convened to address the budget shortfall in response to COVID-19. Bills from the legislative session were not addressed.

The legislature will reconvene on June 22nd and the ACS CAN team will continue to monitor bills. We are waiting for more details on public participation since the State Capitol remains closed to the public.

Follow us on social media [@ACSCANHI](#) to get instant alerts and updates on the bills we are supporting this session. The 2020 legislative session is scheduled to end on July 10th.

FEDERAL UPDATE



Stimulus Package Would Expand Access to Health Coverage, Provide Relief for Nonprofits

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Heroes Act, a package of legislative proposals to address pandemic-related health, research and economic relief needs. ACS CAN advocated for numerous provisions that were included, such as:

- A special enrollment period for private coverage through the ACA;
- Increased funding for state Medicaid programs;
- Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to expand COVID-19 research and restart biomedical research;
- Enabling additional nonprofits to access business relief programs; and
- Requirements for federal agencies to collect racial and ethnic demographic data on COVID-19 as the coronavirus has disproportionately affected communities of color.

ACS CAN is [urging the Senate](#) to swiftly pass the legislation and provide millions of Americans in the aid they need.

Mahalo! In a recent virtual townhall, *From Common Ground to Congressional Action: Advancing the Universal Charitable Deduction*, Senator Brian Schatz was mentioned as one of the Senators working on an amendment to financially assist mid-sized non-profit organizations like the American Cancer Society (500 - 5000 employees). Thank you for contacting Senator Schatz's office as he heard you. Stay tuned as we may ask for your help again to urge Senator Schatz to champion this important issue.

New Survey Shows Increased Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Care



Our second, more extensive survey on how the cancer community is being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic shows that patients and survivors are finding it increasingly challenging to access health care.

- 79% of patients in active cancer treatment reported a delay to their health care (up from 27% in our previous survey).
- Nearly half (46%) of patients reported a change to their financial situation that affects their ability to pay for care, with nearly a quarter (23%) worrying about losing their health insurance.
- Nearly half (48%) reported an impact on their mental and or emotional well-being, with the relaxation of social distancing measures generating additional stress and anxiety.

This latest survey also included the perspectives of caregivers and health care providers, who echoed patient concerns about safety and ability to provide support as the country reopens.

Read more about the survey in the [detailed findings memo](#) and [new infographic resource](#) at www.fightcancer.org.

Ambassadors in the News...

You've been busy sharing your stories across the islands.

4/19: [KITV](#)

4/22: [Hawaii News Now](#)

4/24: Hawaii Tribune Herald - [Letter to the Editor](#), Gay Okada

5/2 : Maui News - [Letter to the Editor](#), Kellen King

5/26: Honolulu Star Advertiser - [Island Views](#), Mike Kidonakis

Have a story? [Share](#) your story with us today!

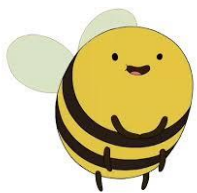


While much still remains uncertain with COVID-19, we want to reassure you that the health and well-being of you and all our ACS CAN HI advocates is important to us. This is changing how we think about travel and large meetings this year and we will not be able to all gather in Washington D.C. in September for a Lights of Hope ceremony. Lights of Hope 2020 will look different than years past, but we are excited to be celebrating 10 years of hope in Hawaii and across the nation!

Finding a way to celebrate 10 years of Lights of Hope that was safe and accessible was our priority when deciding to take Lights of Hope Across America. Our population of volunteers includes many cancer survivors and patients, which makes extra caution around large gatherings prudent.

ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific will be hosting our own Lights of Hope special ceremony at the American Cancer Society to honor our friends and family on Saturday, September 12. We will gather together to honor, remember, and to celebrate our loved ones. More details to follow.

Contact your ACS CAN staff partner, Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org if you would like to support this special event.

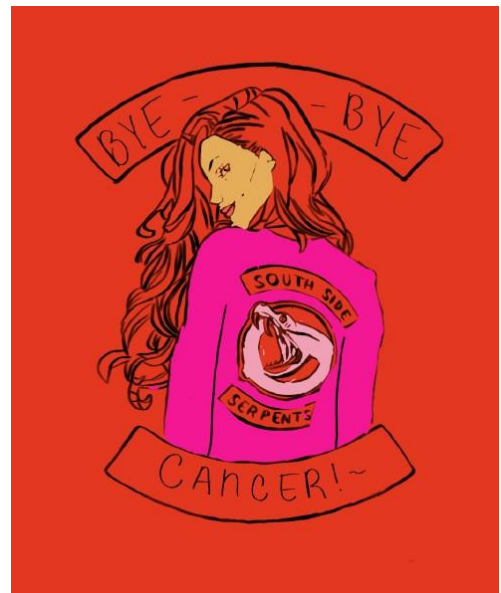


BEE POSITIVE!

Looking for a support group at this time? Get connected! ACS CAN Ambassador Jenny Hausler leads the oldest cancer support group in

Hawaii (since 1977) open to patients, survivors, caregivers, and those who lost someone from cancer.

Contact Jenny Hausler at (808) 368-4594 or e-mail jenhausler@hotmail.com for more information.



“Bye-Bye Cancer!”

Lights of Hope bag designed by
Leana Abe

Lights of Hope Bag Decorating Contest

Bag entries have been extended to the end of June. Donate to our Lights of Hope page: <http://action.fightcancer.org/goto/Hawaii> and we will send you a Lights of Hope coloring page and instructions. Your entry will be posted to @ACSCANHI Instagram and Facebook.

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax deductible.

Volunteer Spotlight – Kyle Loui



Aloha! My name is Kyle Loui and I am a Graduate Student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I began volunteering with ACS CAN because I am interested in cancer related advocacy. With my Political Science background, I am excited to volunteer with ACS CAN on health policy issues at the Hawaii State Legislature. I have assisted with Cancer Awareness Day at the Capitol, kupuna care legislation, researching bills, public outreach activities at my school, and recruiting other advocates. I know I make a difference! [Get involved today!](#)

Watch our healthy cooking demos this summer & share your recipes!

Starting in June ACS CAN Ambassadors will share their favorite healthy meals through cooking demos posted on the ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific social media pages. We know that you have been quarantine cooking at home and would love for you to share some of the dishes you made with us! ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific is compiling a healthy digital cookbook made of recipes submitted by YOU! We want to try your original recipes (recipes cannot be directly copied from any printed or online cookbook). All proceeds from the digital cookbook will benefit ACS CAN Hawaii-Pacific to continue the fight to end cancer.

Send recipes or questions to your staff partner, Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org.



Upcoming Events!

- June 22: 2020 Legislative Session Reconvenes
- June 22: Healthy Cooking Demo with Chelsea Gonzales, ACT Lead CD1 – Check out our social media [@ACSCANHI](https://www.instagram.com/acscanhi/) to watch the [demo!](#)
- July 10: 2020 Legislative Session Ends
- September 12: Lights of Hope Across America
- October 13: ACS CAN Clinical Trials Policy Forum

Follow us **@ACSCANHI** on social media to check out our upcoming events.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACSCANHI/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/acscanhi/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACSCANHI>



JUNIOR CANCER FIGHTER ACTIVITY CENTER

Who knew learning about advocacy could be so fun? Check out the Junior Cancer Fighter Activity Center, an online hub to teach elementary and middle school-age children and parents and grandparents about advocacy, fighting cancer and ACS CAN.

Resources include videos, advocacy opportunities, fundraising ideas and fun activities to fight cancer.

Check it out at fightcancer.org/junior and #jrcancerfighter on social media.

