



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY HONORS DR. DILEEP BAL FOR
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE**

HONOLULU – Dr. Dileep Bal, Hawai'i State Department of Health District Health Officer for the island of Kaua'i has been honored with the 2009 Luther L. Terry Award for outstanding community service by the American Cancer Society. Dr. Bal was presented the global award at the 14th World Conference on Tobacco Or Health held in Mumbai, India on March 11, 2009. The award program provides international recognition across the broad field of tobacco prevention and control worldwide.

"We are so fortunate to have Dr. Bal as our district health administrator on Kaua'i. His outstanding achievements and leadership in tobacco prevention demonstrate his enduring commitment and dedication to public health," said Dr. Chiyome Fukino, director of health. "His exemplary career in tobacco prevention flows over into all aspects of his work in public health today."

A total of eight individuals representing seven different countries were honored in various categories.

"By recognizing these distinguished individuals with this award, we hope to encourage others to follow in the fearless and pioneering footsteps of Dr. Terry, and to inspire all countries to expand their tobacco control activities and intensify their efforts to control the spread of tobacco use to both youth and adult populations around the globe," Dr. John Seffrin, CEO, American Cancer Society wrote in the awards ceremony program.

(more)

The Outstanding Community Service Award recognizes an individual who has worked at the grassroots level to mobilize and motivate individuals and/or organizations working in tobacco control. Awardees are individuals who have proven experience in successfully building coalitions, forging relationships with disparate groups, and/or working in and with their surrounding community to promote tobacco control in their municipality, state, country, and/or region.

Dileep G. Bal, M.D., M.S., MPH, has a long history of taking on the battle against cancer as a leader in community health. He is known nationally and internationally as the former director and founder of California's influential and exceptionally effective Tobacco Control Program and is currently the district health officer for the Hawai'i Department of Health on the island of Kaua'i. Under his outstanding leadership, California made tremendous progress in tobacco control, and the state's tobacco control program has emerged as a model not only for other states in the United States, but also globally.

Over the last decade, Dr. Bal has become increasingly involved in global tobacco control initiatives. In 2004, he served as an editorial advisory board member for the Report on Tobacco Control in India, which was commissioned by the Government of India, and in 2006, he served as co-chair of the World Conference on Tobacco OR Health. He has earned a reputation for making courageous decisions and taking calculate risks to advance public health and tobacco control to unprecedented levels of effectiveness.

Dr. Bal has also demonstrated his dedication to serving the community as an active volunteer leader with the American Cancer Society at the local, state, and national level. He has been a member of the National Board of Directors and a national officer in addition to being an Honorary Life Member, and past president of both the Sacramento Unit and the California Division of the American Cancer Society. From 2000 to 2001, Dr. Bal was the national president of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Bal has served as the Kaua'i District Health Officer since September 2005.

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