



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

News Release

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**HAWAI'I VOLUNTEER HONORED NATIONALLY FOR WORK WITH
ELDERLY TO PREVENT FRAUD**

HONOLULU -- The State of Hawai'i Executive Office on Aging (EOA) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawai'i are proud to have SMP volunteer, Charles L. Clark of Kailua, O'ahu receive the U.S. Administration on Aging 2009 SMP Volunteer Excellence Award. Clark is one of 10 outstanding volunteers chosen from among 10,000 SMP volunteers in the U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. SMP, formerly known as the Senior Medicare Patrol Program, trains retired professionals as community educators to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Kathy Greenlee, assistant secretary for aging, recognized the honorees at the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Adele Ching, Hawai'i's SMP coordinator, accepted the award for Clark, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"The success of this program and the outstanding efforts of the volunteers underscore the substantial contributions older Americans continue to make to their communities and to our nation," said Greenlee.

Noemi Pendleton, EOA director, presented the national award to Clark during a recent meeting of the Policy Advisory Board on Elder Affairs in Honolulu. Pendleton thanked Clark for his "steadfast commitment and loyalty to the SMP program and his willingness to drive or fly to anywhere in the state to speak to *kupuna* about health care fraud."

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Clark and Hawai'i's 35 other SMP volunteers encourage Medicare and Medicaid recipients to always review their Medicare Summary Notice and Part D Explanation of Benefits for mistakes. The elderly are advised to look for three things on their billing statement: (1) charges for something they didn't get; (2) billing for the same thing twice; and (3) services that were not ordered by their doctor. If an error is detected, they are encouraged to contact their doctor or health plan.

SMP Hawai'i relies on volunteers to educate and empower older adults to take an active role in the detection and prevention of health care fraud and abuse in Hawai'i. To become a SMP Hawai'i volunteer, please call the Executive Office on Aging at 586-0100 (on Oahu) or 800-296-9422 for more information.

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