

# HAWAII VETERAN

Vol. 19, No. 2 State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services June 2015

## Governor Ige's First Memorial Day Ceremony

Governor David Y. Ige's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. This year's Memorial Day theme was "Remember Their Sacrifices for the Freedom of Others."

From L-R: Info Sys Tech Second Class Matthew Johnson Wreath Bearer, Gov. David Y. Ige, Brigadier General Arthur Logan, The State Adjutant General and U.S. Representative Mark Takai presenting the State wreath.



U.S. Military leaders presented the Military wreath.

"The ceremony was spot on. To all those involved, you should be proud of your efforts honoring our fallen military." - Rock Orozco, Veterans' Services Counselor



After the ceremony, Gov. Ige and his wife stayed to talk with all the veterans. Gov. Ige mentioned in his Memorial Day address about his father serving in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

*Photos by Jayme Nagamine*

# New OVS Staff on the Neighbor Islands



Corissa Kopmann served 6 years as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army. She has joined the island of Kauai's OVS staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. Ms. Kopmann previously worked with the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs for 2 years as an outreach worker with the Rural Health Program.

*Photo provided by Corissa Kopmann*



Catherine Soisson has joined the island of Maui's OVS Staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. She is from an HR and Employment Counselor background. Ms. Soisson comes from a family who has served in the military. Her father was a WWII veteran, her brother is a Vietnam veteran and her son just recently left the Army after 6 years with 3 tours; 2 in Iraq and 1 in Afghanistan.

*Photo provided by Catherine Soisson*



Roddy Sueoka has joined the island of Hawaii's OVS staff as a Veterans' Services Counselor. He is an Army Veteran who worked with the Warriors in Transition Battalion (WTB) and TAMC Social Work Dept.

*Photo by Lyndie Michioka*

Not pictured: Cherie Gnehm-Wright from the Maui office and Diane Ramsay from the Kona Vet Center.

# New Veterans' Services Counselors on Oahu



Jeanna Hurt worked at the Dept. of Human Services as an employment counselor for over 14 years. She has over 5 years experience as a life coach and 10 years as a youth leader.



Carolina "Lina" Medina-Dupaix is experienced in working with transitioning soldiers in ACAP/TAPS at Schofield Barracks and Ft. Shafter. She worked with soldiers who are retiring, or being medically separated from the Army in developing employment and educational skills to succeed in their military to civilian transition.



Rock Orozco retired from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major in late 2007. He previously served as a Veterans Service Representative with the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs. With his music and business degree, he partnered with Kapena De Lima from Kapena fame, to form Bu Roc Music Publishing, LLP.



Terri Pule was previously the Store Director at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. She also assisted veterans at the VBA and Vet Center. Ms. Pule comes from a family of veterans, her father, father-in-law and uncles respectively served in previous times of conflict.

*Photos by Jayme Nagamine*

# Update your information for the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter

Cut out and mail responses in a stamped envelope to:

Office of Veterans Services  
ATTN: HI VETERAN NEWSLETTER  
459 Patterson Road  
E-Wing, Room 1-A103  
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522

Or email us at:  
jnagamine@ovs.hawaii.gov

Yes, I would enjoy a FREE copy of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter. Please add me to your mailing list. *You do not need to send this portion in if you are currently receiving the newsletter.*

Update information, change my old address to my new address

No thanks, Please remove me from your mailing list.

Old Address

New Address

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Veterans Services Advisory Board Members



Harold Bugado is our East Hawaii Advisory Board member. Mr. Bugado served over 6 years during the Vietnam War. Retired after 36 years from the Hawaii County Elderly Activities Division as the Operations Director.



Michael A. Lilly is our Oahu Advisory Board Member. He is a former Hawai'i Attorney General and Vietnam War combat veteran who retired after 30 years as a Navy Captain. Mr. Lilly is a founding Director of the USS Missouri Memorial Association which owns and operates the battleship Missouri as a memorial and tourist attraction.

*Photo provided by Michael Lilly*



Chelsea Fernandez is our Maui Advisory Board member. Ms. Fernandez is a U.S. Army Reserve Veteran and served a tour in Iraq. She is currently on the Hawaii Women Veterans Sub Committee helping to improve the lives of women veterans who have served their country.



Jim Traxler, LTC-R, Army is our West Hawaii Advisory Board Member. He served 20 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with overseas assignments in Europe and Vietnam. Mr. Traxler is presently the Financial Officer for the West Hawaii Veterans Council (WHVC), Adjutant for the Kona Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Secretary for the Big Island Retired Military Assoc. (BIRMA).

*Photo provided by Jim Traxler*



Clay Park is our Oahu Advisory Board member. Mr. Park created the Uncles and Aunties program to help assist Veterans and their Families navigate the VA application process. Former case manager for Helping Hands Hawaii. Retired US Army with 25 years of service.

*Photos by Jayme Nagamine*

The Governor's office on Boards and Commissions is accepting recommendations for the island of Oahu. Here is the link for making a recommendation: <http://boards.hawaii.gov/> You can also call (808) 433-0420 to make a recommendation.

# 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Seal

## ABOUT THE SEAL

Description of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Seal:

“The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration” is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings of the Seal.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognizes all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort.

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were killed in action, held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation’s freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words “Service, Valor, and Sacrifice”; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words “Service” and “Valor” represents hope for the families of those veterans for

which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words “Valor” and “Sacrifice” represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home.

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia,

Laos, Thailand and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served. The white number “50th” emblazoned over the map, and the outer and inner gold rings which make traditional use of the color

to signify the 50th anniversary, symbolize the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language “to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.”

The green laurel wreath

signifies honor for all who served.

The seal’s blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag.

**From the Commemoration Website**  
[http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/about\\_the\\_seal/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/about_the_seal/)



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## Maui’s Memorial Day Lei Making Event



Pictured above: Mrs. Terry Han, Col.-R Lloyd K. Sodetani and Col.-R Ronald Han enjoying the festivities.

*Photos by Ronald Han*

# Helping Veterans and Family Members to Prevent Medicare Fraud, Waste and Abuse

By Adele Ching  
Coordinator

## Senior Medicare Patrol

Senior Medicare Patrols (SMPs) empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, education, and counseling. SMPs are grant-funded projects of the federal U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). There are 53 SMP Projects in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. SMP Hawaii began in 1997 and is sponsored by the Executive Office on Aging, Department of Health, State of Hawaii.

### PROTECT DETECT REPORT SMPs work in three main areas:

#### 1. Conduct Outreach and Education

SMPs give presentations to groups, exhibit at events, and work one-on-one with Medicare beneficiaries. In 2013 more than 1 million people were served nationally by the SMP program's outreach and education efforts. The SMP message may be summed up in three

words: protect, detect and report.

To expand outreach, SMP Hawaii partners with county, state and federal organizations, including state and county offices on aging, departments of the Attorney General and Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Office of the Inspector General-U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### 2. Engage Volunteers

Protecting an older persons' health, finances, and medical identity while saving precious Medicare dollars is a cause that attracts civic-minded Americans. The SMP program engages over 6,000 volunteers nationally who collectively contribute approximately 150,000 hours each year. SMP Hawaii has over 65 volunteers on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Hawaii. In 2014, our volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours in training and outreach.

Many SMP Hawaii volunteers are actively involved in their community and volunteer for more than one organization. Antonio "Tony" Garcia is a per-

fect example. On April 3, 2015, the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System, Engineering Division, Honolulu, Hawaii, commended Tony for the 14,359 volunteer hours he has provided to veterans during the past 15 years. In 2009, the City and County of Honolulu presented its Bronze Akamai Achievement Award to Tony at the Mayor's 43rd Annual Senior Citizen Recognition Program for his service to seniors as a volunteer with the Hawaii SMP, the State Health Insurance and Assistance Program (SHIP), and the VA.

#### 3. Receive Beneficiary Inquiries

When Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and family members contact SMP, the SMP determines whether the inquiry is appropriate for the SMP to resolve or better referred to another organization. If a health care billing error is involved, the SMP provides one-on-one counseling to help the beneficiary to correct it. If the SMP's assessment is that fraud or abuse is possible, the SMP makes referrals to the appropriate state and federal agencies to investigate.

On occasion, SMP receives inquiries from veterans and spouses that have

**Continued on the next page**



Pictured above are SMP Hawaii staff and some of SMP Hawaii's over 65 volunteers on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Hawaii. In 2014, our volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours in training and outreach.

*Photo provided by the SMP Program*

**Gov. David Y. Ige**  
Commander in Chief

**Brig. Gen. Arthur J. Logan**  
The Adjutant General

**Col.-R Ronald P. Han, Jr.**  
OVS Director

**Jayne Nagamine**  
Editor/Layout

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State of Hawaii Department of Defense

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# Helping Veterans and Family Members to Prevent Medicare Fraud, Waste and Abuse

From the previous page

TRICARE and Medicare. In one case, a veteran had an issue with a very expensive prescription drug that an out-of-state pharmacy shipped to him. He returned the drug. When he received his Explanation of Benefits (EOB) and saw how much the pharmacy charged TRICARE, he contacted SMP. SMP helped the veteran contact the pharmacy to secure the pharmacy's assurance that they would refund TRICARE's \$3,000 payment for that single medication.

SMP Hawaii recognizes that the Medicare population now includes younger veterans,

who are eligible for Medicare due to disability arising from their military service. SMP would like to expand our educational outreach to our young veterans and all veterans that have Medicare. We welcome working with the VA to carry out this outreach. We also welcome veterans to join our volunteer program.

**For more information about the Senior Medicare Patrol and volunteer opportunities, visit the SMP Hawaii website at <http://smphawaii.org> or call 1-800-296-9422.**



**Tony Garcia in action, he is staffing our SMP booth. He is using special playing cards that asks a question about Medicare fraud that Tony then answers to educate people about Medicare fraud. To his right is fellow SMP Hawaii volunteer Mollie Chang.**

*Photo provided by the SMP Program*