

The Senior Medicare Patrol is.....

LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

DATE: 1/26/15

2015-1

SUBJECT: **TAX IDENTITY THIEVES WANT YOUR MEDICARE NUMBER!**

- This week is Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week. Take note: This is the season when scammers will use devious ways to steal your refunds or get more money from you.
- Scammers will get a hold of your Social Security number OR YOUR **MEDICARE NUMBER** to file a false income tax return and collect your refund.
- Scammers posing as agents for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will claim that you owe “back taxes” and demand you pay them. If you don’t, they threaten to arrest you, deport you if you are an immigrant, shut off your electricity and water, or take away your driver’s license.
- Scammers may use fake names or bogus IRS identity numbers, seem to know your SSN, send fake IRS mails, use fake caller ID, pretend with follow-up calls to be the local police, DMV, or immigration service—to make you believe they are the IRS.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

Go to www.irs.gov and type in “SCAM” in the SEARCH box. If you are a victim of any of these scams, report to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

Contact the Federal Trade Commission at their “FTC Complaint Assistant” at www.ftc.gov. Write “IRS Telephone Scam” on your report.

Avoid tax identity theft in the same way you protect yourself from Medicare identity theft: **PROTECT YOUR MEDICARE NUMBER!** For more information, contact SMP HAWAII at 586-7281 or 1-800-296-9422, or email smphi@doh.hawaii.gov.



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