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The Sex Abuse Treatment Center's mission is to support the emotional healing process of those sexually assaulted in Hawai'i, to increase community awareness about their needs and to reduce the incidence of all forms of sexual assault.

FROM THE HEART

Comments from those served by the SATC staff

"... She was always there to help and explain. She was very kind and patient. She helped me to stay calm, even though I had a lot of anxiety."
(referring to an SATC crisis worker)

"My child is a lot more like herself before this happened. She made a 180 degree change and I truly appreciate that."
(referring to child's progress with an SATC psychologist)

"... The doctor was very knowledgeable and kind. He had such sincere interest in me it made every part of this difficult process comforting. He was beyond excellent..."
(referring to an SATC physician and the medical/legal exam)

"Excellent course, it helped me understand how to teach a sensitive topic to my students and keep them safe."
(a teacher referring to SATC's sexual abuse prevention curriculum & training)

Adriana Ramelli Receives Distinguished Service Award

Adriana Ramelli, the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), received the prestigious 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Hawai'i Women Lawyers organization at their annual awards ceremony on April 23rd. "Adri is remarkable for having dedicated her professional career toward preventing sexual assault and helping to address the many needs of sexual assault survivors," said attorney Ellen Godbey Carson in presenting Ramelli with her award.

During Ramelli's 28 years at the SATC, she has championed the rights of sexual assault survivors, developed comprehensive, high quality survivor services, and spearheaded various innovative community awareness and education projects to protect the vulnerable and to prevent sexual violence.

"Through her vision, leadership, and hard work, for more than twenty-five years, she has made a difference in the lives of countless women and children."

Attorney General Mark Bennett



*Attorney Ellen Godbey Carson and SATC
Executive Director Adriana Ramelli.*

Prosecuting Attorney Peter Carlisle, present at the awards ceremony, commented that, "one of Adriana Ramelli's many strengths is her staying power. By devoting more than a quarter of a century of her life to the victims of sexual assault, Adri possesses the proven ability to work out the fine details of programs, grants, legislation and office administration. Adri also has a keen understanding of the larger picture. Under her able leadership SATC collaborates with agencies and key stakeholders to increase community awareness about sexual violence and has increased the effectiveness of the courts, law enforcement, the medical profession and others."

During Ramelli's tenure at the SATC, the Center established a protocol for sexual assault medical-legal examinations and evidence collection procedures which became the foundation for forensic evidence procedures for sexual assault cases throughout Hawai'i. This highly regarded protocol was developed in collaboration with prosecutors, police, forensic scientists and medical

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Adriana Ramelli
Executive Director

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and social services personnel statewide. The use of the Hawai'i State Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit and the accompanying guidelines ensures standardized and forensically sound evidence collection.



Adriana Ramelli and Mimi Beams, SATC Advisory Board president, are shown with Ramelli's "Lifetime of Public Service" plaque from the State Senate.

key stakeholders, agencies and schools, the SATC has undertaken various sexual violence prevention projects and programs, including the development of K-12th grade sexual abuse prevention curricula for teachers.

"Adriana has made extraordinary contributions toward preventing sexual assault and supporting survivors throughout Hawai'i," said Attorney General Mark Bennett present at Ramelli's award ceremony. "She has been a pioneer in developing services and prevention programs, educating the community, influencing public policy, and establishing protocols that help police and prosecutors bring perpetrators to justice."

A highlight of Ramelli's long history of advocating for changes in public policy and laws was the key role she played in the development and passage of the victim-counselor privilege rule. Also, over the years, she has provided professional training to prosecutors, physicians, police and counselors in Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin; has served on numerous statewide advisory committees and task forces including Hawai'i's Judicial Penal Code Advisory Committee and is the current President of the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In 2005, Ramelli was appointed by the Supreme Court State of Hawai'i to serve on the Hawai'i Violent Sexual Predator Board. She has also served on the Advisory Committee of the National Sexual Assault Response Team Project.

"Through her vision, leadership, and hard work, for more than twenty-five years, she has made a difference in the lives of countless women and children," said Attorney General Mark Bennett in summing up Ramelli's impressive contributions to Hawai'i.

Central to SATC's medical-legal services was the development of crisis counseling services and legal systems advocacy for the sexual assault survivor and family. A 24/7 hotline was created, with staff trained to immediately respond to the critical needs of those sexually assaulted. Specialized on-going therapy services were also established to help survivors recover from the emotional trauma of their victimization. In addition, over the years the SATC expanded its services to provide technical assistance to sexual assault centers on Kaua'i, the Big Island and Maui (which serves Moloka'i & Lana'i).

Under Ramelli's leadership, the SATC has also remained committed to educating the community about the realities of sexual victimization and what can be done to prevent sexual violence. Through community awareness activities, trainings and collaboration with

Over 50% of Those Served by SATC are Children



How I Have Been Hurt

[child sexual abuse survivor artwork]

In 2009, 56% of those served at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) were under age 17. This continues a decade long trend of children representing about one half of those served by the SATC each year. Of the children served in 2009, the youngest victim was 12 months old and 20% were under the age of 10. In most cases the abuser was known to the child, and in about 15% of these cases the child was assaulted over a period of a month to a year or more.

As the only comprehensive sexual assault program in Hawai'i, the SATC provides crisis intervention services for children and their loved ones 24/7 and a specialized pediatric medical exam to evaluate sexual trauma and provide medical treatment. The Center also provides counseling by therapists who are trained to work with children in a sensitive, supportive and age appropriate way.

"When a child is sexually assaulted it can affect the whole family," said SATC Clinical Program Manager Evie Yanagida. "Parents often benefit from counseling too and can play an important role in their child's recovery."

Respect is a Choice Impacts Teens

This April, over 2,500 teens participated in the *Respect is a Choice* program, a collaborative project of Honolulu Theatre for Youth and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. This innovative sexual violence prevention program has been offered to high schools every Spring since 2007. It is a dynamic, interactive approach to learning, involving two short, compelling plays performed in a classroom setting, followed by an actor-facilitated discussion with the high school audience. Students are separated by gender for the play & discussion. *Girl's Choice* by Carson Becker is performed for teen girls and *Choice* by Yokonaan Kearns for teen boys.

Again this year, hundreds of written evaluations by students clearly indicate that teens find the program relevant and important. Some of their responses include:

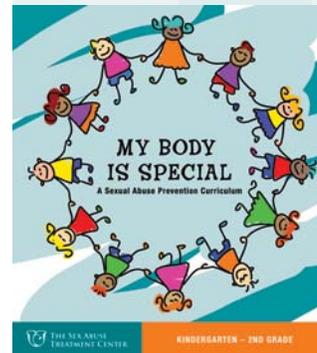
The play was a great example of a real life situation, everyone should see this play and hear this discussion. . . It really helps students understand what sexual abuse is and what you can do to prevent it. . . it opened up my mind and made me think differently about things. . . very inspiring, it was funny and serious at the same time, I learned a lot. . . this can prevent future rape incidents . . . it influenced me to be a man, to respect. . . I think the play really covered what you could do if you were raped . . . I feel this will help a lot of girls and it can change someone's life. I know it changed mine. . . I believe this program should be available to all schools in Hawai'i.



A *Respect is a Choice* veteran, HTY actor Alvin Chan.

For more information about this program, contact Honolulu Theatre for Youth Artistic Director Eric Johnson at (839-9885) or Christine Trecker, SATC Education Manager at (535-7600).

SATC Curriculum Design: An Award Winner!



At the annual Pele Awards show on April 10th, Orasi Design received a Silver Award for its design of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center's elementary school curriculum binders and posters. The event, sponsored by the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Advertising Federation,

recognizes the top advertising and design work produced every year in Hawai'i. Receiving the Silver award in the public service category were Orasi designers Stacy Taira Koike and Loni Takeoka. Over 400 people representing local advertising, design and media organizations attended this year's event at the Ilikai Hotel. Dennis Christianson, President of the Anthology Marketing Group, remarked to the audience that, "the awards are just part of this event. What's really more important is that we gather like this to share and celebrate some of the best work of Hawaii's advertising and design community. Because every piece of excellent, break-through-the-clutter work that's created by an agency and embraced by a client, opens the path for everyone to do more good work."

Pediatricians Help SATC Educate

For Sexual Assault Awareness month in April, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) invited O'ahu pediatricians to participate in an education campaign to help protect children from sexual abuse. The idea was introduced at a meeting of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Bidwell, an SATC physician, spoke of the child sexual abuse victims he has served at the SATC over the years and the important role education can play in keeping children safe. Many of the doctors in attendance responded to his message by agreeing to help educate the families they serve.

During April, thirty-eight pediatricians displayed posters in their waiting rooms reminding children to tell a grown-up

they trust if they experience unsafe, secret touching. They also distributed free parent brochures on child sexual abuse and educational coloring books about personal safety.

"It was wonderful to partner with pediatricians," said SATC Education Manager Christine Trecker. "Through their help we were able to reach thousands of parents. Parents need to be informed about child sexual abuse and the importance of talking to their children about appropriate and inappropriate touching. Children who are told that unsafe, secret touching is never their fault and to speak up if it ever happens to them, are less likely to remain silent if sexually victimized."



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