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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*

"... [A]ll the information that I have been given has helped me get my self esteem and gradually my life back." (*sexual assault survivor referring to an SATC clinician*)

"The services were so good for me and my daughter. We really appreciate how we were treated... [THE SATC WORKER] was very sensitive and understanding to our problem. We would like to tell her thank you for everything." (*parent of a sexual assault survivor referring to an SATC crisis worker after receiving SATC services at the Children's Justice Center*)

"Being a middle school teacher, this new information will help me when abuse is reported... I now have resources to use. Thank you!" (*teacher referring to an SATC educator providing prevention and education training*)

## Surfing With a Purpose Seventeen Years of Sexual Assault Prevention

Everyone knows Uncle China in the surfing community. He is a hero of surfing. At The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), he is also known as Uncle China and he is our hero. Thanks to Uncle China and his family, thousands of children and parents know about sexual violence prevention. Each June, female surfers of all ages gather at Kuhio Beach in Waikiki for the longest running local surf competition solely for women and girls. The Wahine Surfing Classic is far greater than catching sun and waves.

China, a surfing promoter and former champion long boarder, had been organizing a long board competition for both genders since 1984, but the female surfers didn't seem to be taken seriously. When his daughter began competing, he decided to create an event just for women and girls.

As he started planning, China saw a public service announcement for SATC on television. The message struck a cord with him. "I had heard about kids getting sexually abused... sometimes girls getting victimized by their own fathers or an uncle, someone they know and trust," said China. "I wanted to help the kids and let parents know there is a place they can go for help if something like this happens."

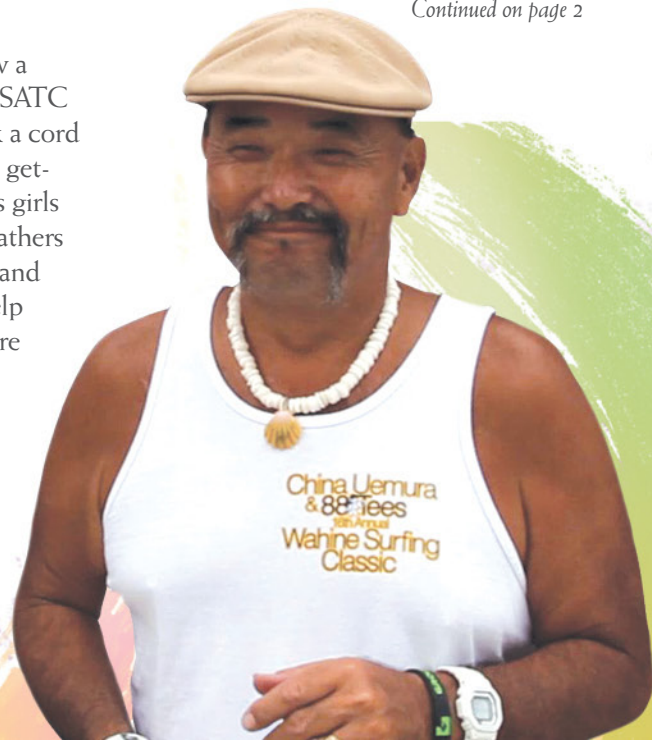
Without knowing anyone at SATC, he called and said, "I want to educate kids and parents on sexual abuse at a surf meet and I want to donate proceeds from

the event to the SATC." All he wanted SATC to do was spend time at the beach talking with kids and parents about sexual abuse prevention.

It wasn't easy. Everyone wanted to sponsor China's long board competition, but no one wanted to sponsor a competition for girls. On top of that, he said, "they heard sex abuse and didn't want to think about this type of abuse happening." Yet, China was determined to have an event that would not only leave female surfers feeling competent about their abilities, but that would bring the issue of sex abuse to the surfing community.

Despite a lack of sponsors, the first Wahine Surfing Classic was held in 1997. It was a success! It raised needed funds for SATC, allowed SATC to educate

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Adriana Ramelli  
*Executive Director*

## THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER SERVICES

24-Hour Hotline: 524-7273

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The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
55 Merchant Street, 22nd Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

535-7600

[www.satchawaii.org](http://www.satchawaii.org)

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the packs of surfers and spectators that visited its booth, and got the attention of the media. Using a surf meet to educate kids on sexual violence was a unique and creative idea that was well-received.

For seventeen years, China has provided a venue for SATC to reach hundreds of people each year. In addition, the event has raised funds for SATC's prevention and education efforts. It has been a truly innovative and effective partnership to educate the greater community about sexual violence. In China's words, "women's surfing is big time now and until sex abuse isn't a problem any more, we'll keep holding this contest."

## Let's Talk About It Wins a 2013 Pele Award

*Let's Talk About It*, a short documentary film made for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), was honored by Hawaii's advertising community with a 2013 Pele Gold Award given to the film's producer, Shooters Film Production. The film's director, David Rosen, explained that the award came as a bit of a surprise: "Media pieces with serious topics like the SATC film usually are not recognized in award ceremonies and it showed that the judges really believed that the film is highly effective in communicating to its target audiences."



*Left to Right: David Crans, Production Manager, David Rosen, Director, Darrin Kaneshiro, Executive Producer*

The compelling twelve-minute film features adult survivors of child sexual abuse and family members sharing their personal experiences. It also includes interviews with SATC clinical psychologist Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara and Honolulu Police Department Detective Jim Maurer, providing important information about child sexual abuse, how to respond if a child discloses sexual abuse, and tips for prevention. "We think this short film can make a real difference in people's lives by helping them recognize warning signs of abusive behavior, and also by helping the victims of sexual abuse," said Rosen. "Shooters Film Production was proud to work with SATC on the production of *Let's Talk About It*."

*Let's Talk About It* was made possible with the generous support of the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund. It is available for viewing on SATC's website at [www.satchawaii.org](http://www.satchawaii.org); or call 535-7600 for information about obtaining a DVD version of the film.

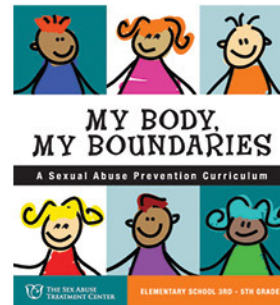
Save the  
Date!

The 15th Annual "It's Not Your Fault" Benefit Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at the O'ahu Country Club. For more information, please contact Richelle Freitas at 535-7607 or [rfreitas@kapiolani.org](mailto:rfreitas@kapiolani.org).

## Study Shows Promising Findings for SATC's Curriculum

A recently published study by members of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Department of Psychology and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) found that SATC's *My Body, My Boundaries* curriculum is effective in increasing children's knowledge of child sexual abuse prevention topics. The study compared third-grade students who received the curriculum with third-grade students who did not. The children who were taught the curriculum reported significantly greater knowledge of the difference between inappropriate and appropriate touch and what to do if they experience sexual abuse.

Every day child victims of sexual abuse sit in Hawai'i classrooms undetected. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research estimates that approximately 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys experience some form of sexual abuse by age 18. Through education, children learn the importance of speaking up if they are sexually victimized, of respecting the personal boundaries of others, and are guided toward developing safe, respectful relationships through adulthood. The findings of this research is encouraging and reinforces SATC's strong commitment to supporting child sexual abuse prevention education in Hawai'i's schools.



*(Taken from Increasing Knowledge of Sexual Abuse: A Study with School Children in Hawai'i, appearing in the December 2012 issue of the Research for Social Work Practice journal)*

*The My Body, My Boundaries curriculum "can serve as a promising practice for social workers who work with culturally diverse populations as a means of preventing experiences of child sexual abuse that may have lasting effects into adulthood."*

## Hawai'i Legislature Passes New Laws that Benefit Sexual Assault Survivors

This legislative session, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) tracked over one hundred bills and resolutions relating directly or indirectly to sexual violence. Two bills that passed this session are particularly significant for survivors of sexual violence.



The first bill, HB 411, requires all Hawai'i hospitals to provide medically and factually accurate and unbiased information about emergency contraception to female sexual assault survivors who present for emergency services and to dispense the medication to survivors who request it. For nearly twenty years, the SATC and others provided education and support for the bill, and this year it passed by an overwhelming majority of the Legislature before heading to the Governor's desk. HB 411 was signed into law as Act 27 by Governor Neil Abercrombie on April 22, 2013.

The second bill, SB 529, was introduced for the first time this session. It requires the family courts to deny custody and visitation to a person who is convicted of a sexual assault with respect to the child conceived through that assault, and it authorizes the family courts to terminate the perpetrator's parental rights. SB 529 was signed into law as Act 253 by the Governor on July 1, 2013.

Additionally, a number of bills addressing human trafficking also passed the Legislature this session.

For more information about this legislative session, visit our new Public Policy page on our website at [www.satchawaii.org](http://www.satchawaii.org).

## Start the Conversation Toolkit, Available Now

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center has released its *Start the Conversation Toolkit* on its website.



The toolkit is designed to assist adults in starting conversations with their teen or pre-teen about key topics such as teen dating abuse and staying safe online. The media, popular culture, and peer pressure often influence young people's behavior and attitudes about relationships and sexuality. Youth need to talk to parents and other caring adults about the importance of developing respectful relationships and how to protect themselves from abusive people. The toolkit provides helpful information and tips to start the conversation and to keep the conversation going. To access the toolkit, visit [www.satchawaii.org](http://www.satchawaii.org).



The Sex Abuse Treatment Center  
55 Merchant Street, 22nd Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

## Adriana Ramelli Honored with National Association of Social Workers Award

On March 22, 2013, Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, was honored by her professional colleagues for the positive impact she has made in our community with the Social Worker of the Year award in the category of Social Justice/Advocacy from the Hawai'i chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.



*SATC Executive Director Adriana Ramelli and Jessica Brazil, member of the Hawai'i chapter of the National Association of Social Workers*