

Hope Video Transcript

My name is Steven Emura.

I'm the Medical Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center.

My name is Mikela Wills and I'm a crisis worker and community liaison for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center.

My name is Sasha Torres and I'm a crisis worker for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center.

I feel like SATC is special for survivors because it's truly a comprehensive agency.

It's great that we're a part of Kapiolani Medical Center, which really shows the caliber of medical care that our survivors can receive.

The SATC group is so special because we all are compassionate men and women who have the same goal, and that's providing quality care for Hawaii.

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center is dedicated to supporting survivors as they grow and heal, and preventing sexual assault through education and advocacy.

With SATC from a physician point of view, we have one time to make a first impression.

These are patients that have been traumatized; so we are interested in not only doing the medical exam, but to start with the emotional healing as well.

When I get called to the E.R., my goal is to make sure that the person that I am spending the next couple hours with feels like they have some type of hope when they leave the hospital. They may not have family or friends who are around them, who may believe them. And my job and my dream is to help them get through that night so that way they can wake up the next morning feeling, "Okay, I feel better about what I did; I made the right decision about coming to SATC.

So, during a forensic exam you truly have to give all of your energy possible to that survivor.

You're with them from the time they check into the E.R. until the time that they leave the hospital. So, you're there not only to provide crisis counseling and to be totally present for them; but you're also there to be responsible for the integrity of the sexual assault evidence collection kit.

The challenge for us as the physicians is to do a very complex technical exam, including collection of evidence; at the same time make sure we do it in a compassionate manner so we can help the patient heal.

Since 1976, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center has helped more than 20,000 survivors through quality, compassionate services.

I had a female caller and she told me that somebody was hurting her that was very close to her. And, unfortunately, before I was able to give her the resources that she needed, she hung up the phone because the person who was hurting her, was coming. I felt terrible, I couldn't sleep for days, and days, and days...however, apparently I gave her enough hope where she actually came in a couple days later. She came in for services. She came in with her mom.

She felt believed; her mom believed her and that was honestly the most amazing feeling I've ever had.

As staff of the Sex Abuse Treatment center, we are continually inspired by the strength and resiliency of the human spirit demonstrated by the survivors we support.

I think it's a necessary work. It's a work that hasn't always been done and it's very meaningful work.

It's the end goal that I have, and that's not to cure the patient, because that's not gonna happen. But, it's to provide them with enough hope that by the time that they leave my care that they feel like they've been believed.

And, finding that empowerment, finding that power within themselves again when it's been taken from them when they were assaulted or they were abused, is what I strive for.

I continue it because of people like them.

The survivors that I work with. It's really amazing to be able to witness such a bravery and strength and courage from people of all ages.

So, that's what really keeps me going.

"When I felt completely alone and engulfed in darkness, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center gave me hope.