BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS STATEWIDE UNIFIED RESPONSE GROUP (BHHSURG)

COVID-19 UPDATE

EDWARD MERSEREAU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SCOTT MORISHIGE, GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

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HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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HOʻŌLA NĀ PUA

ANNA KATRINA KECO, LMHC, CASE MANAGER
JESSICA SOLI, MSW, CASE MANAGER
SUSANNAH WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

SHERI DANIELS, EDD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAPA OLA LŌKAHI

Presenters

- **Tim Hitchens, MSW, Education Program Manager**
  Hoʻōla Nā Pua

  Anna Katrina Keco, LMHC, Case Manager
  Jessica Soli, MSW, Case Manager
  Susannah Wesley Community Center, Trafficking Victim Assistance Program

- **Sheri Daniels, EdD, Executive Director**
  Papa Ola Lōkahi

Tim Hitchens, MSW

Education Program Manager
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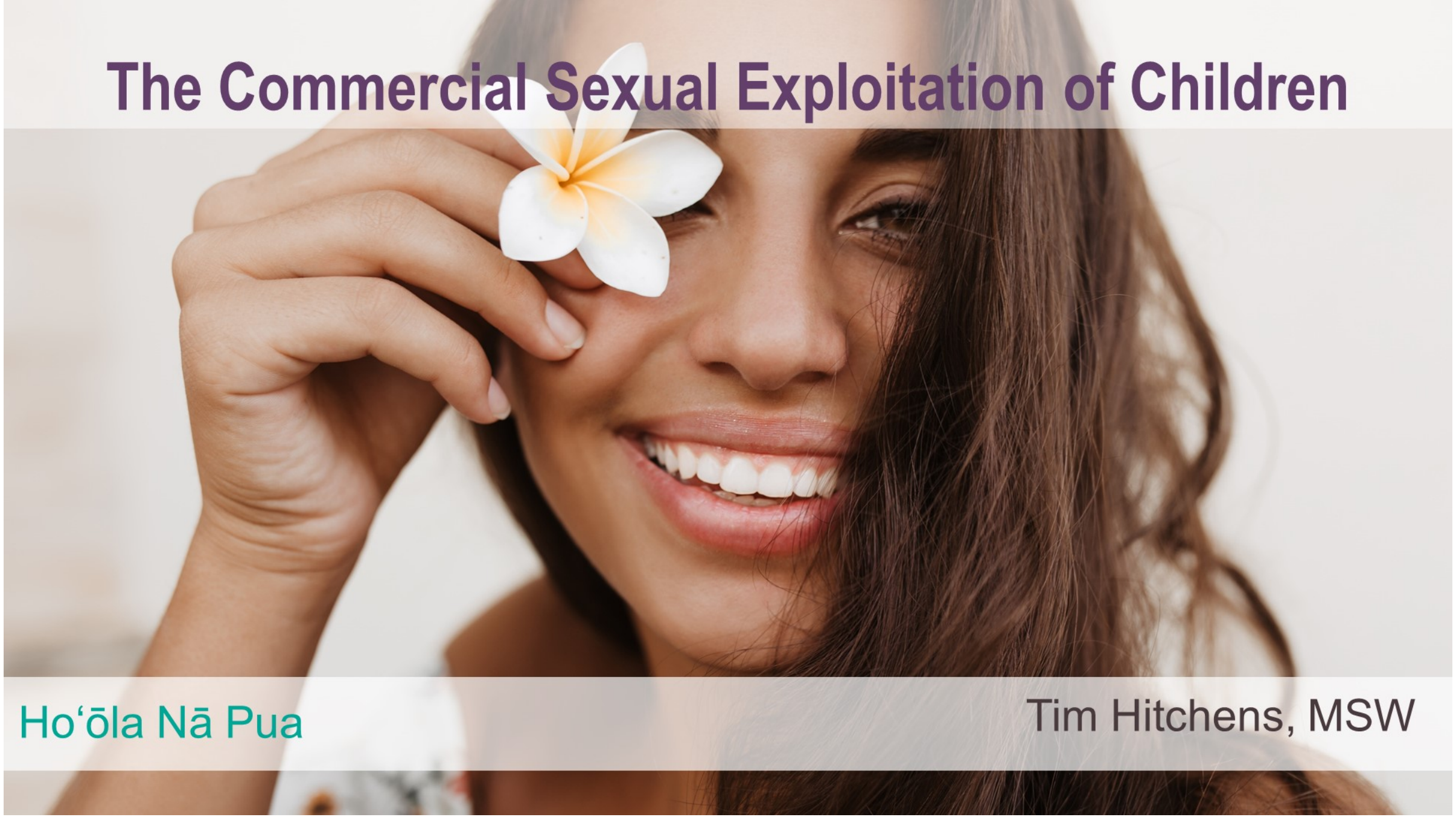
Anna Katrina Keco, LMHC
Jessica Soli, MSW

Case Managers, Trafficking Victim Assistance Program
Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



Hoʻōla Nā Pua

Tim Hitchens, MSW

Guidelines for our time

Respect yourself
Respect others
Consider others in your life

What is Sex Trafficking?

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What is CSEC?

Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking:

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

(22 USC § 7102, https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/federal-law)

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Definition:

Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons.

(https://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/csec_program.html)

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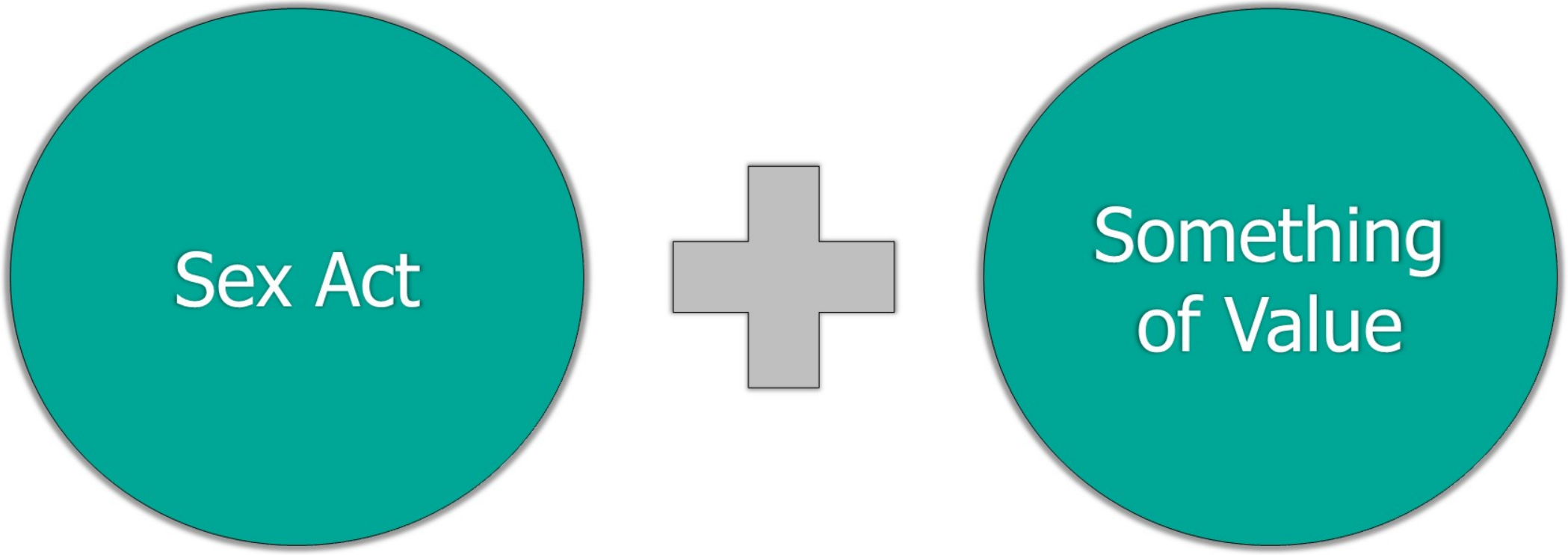
What is "Commercial Sex Act?"



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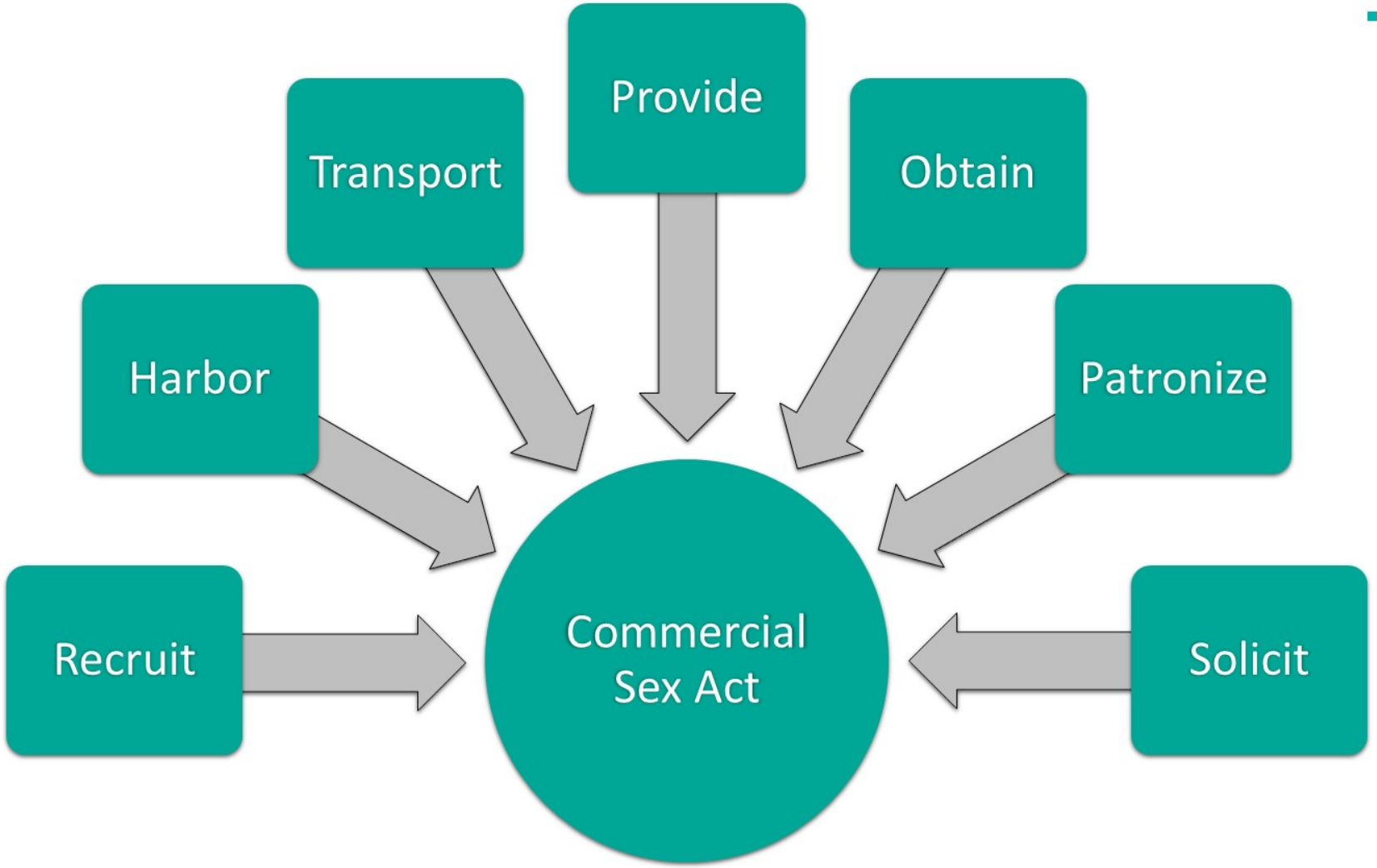
All Sex Trafficking



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All Sex Trafficking

Grooming is the sneaky process of preparing somebody to be exploited. It is often slow and gentle and involves building trust while also isolating a targeted young person. This can begin with eye contact, a smile, a compliment, a joke, a shared interest, or small talk. It can happen in person or online. It can look like a budding friendship or romantic relationship, or like an uncle or auntie showing affection, or a kind stranger offering money, a job opportunity, something to eat, or a place to stay. Once trust is established, the groomer begins to isolate the young person from other friends and family by monopolizing the young person's time, vilifying parents, or manipulating the young person's own doubts about his or her community. The groomer also learns the young person's values, secrets, unmet needs, and vulnerabilities that can later be used against him or her.

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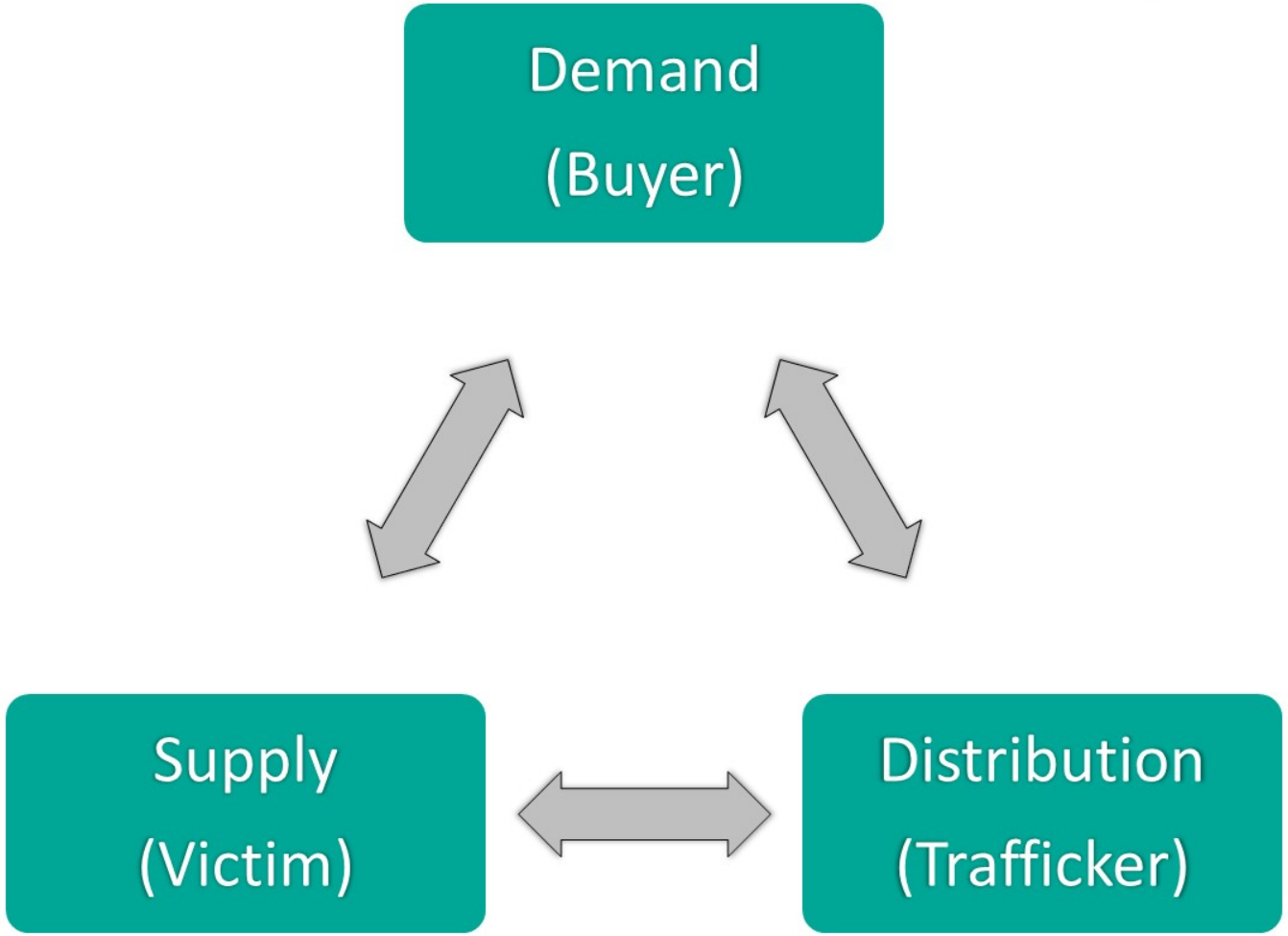
Demand Drives It



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In Hawai‘i

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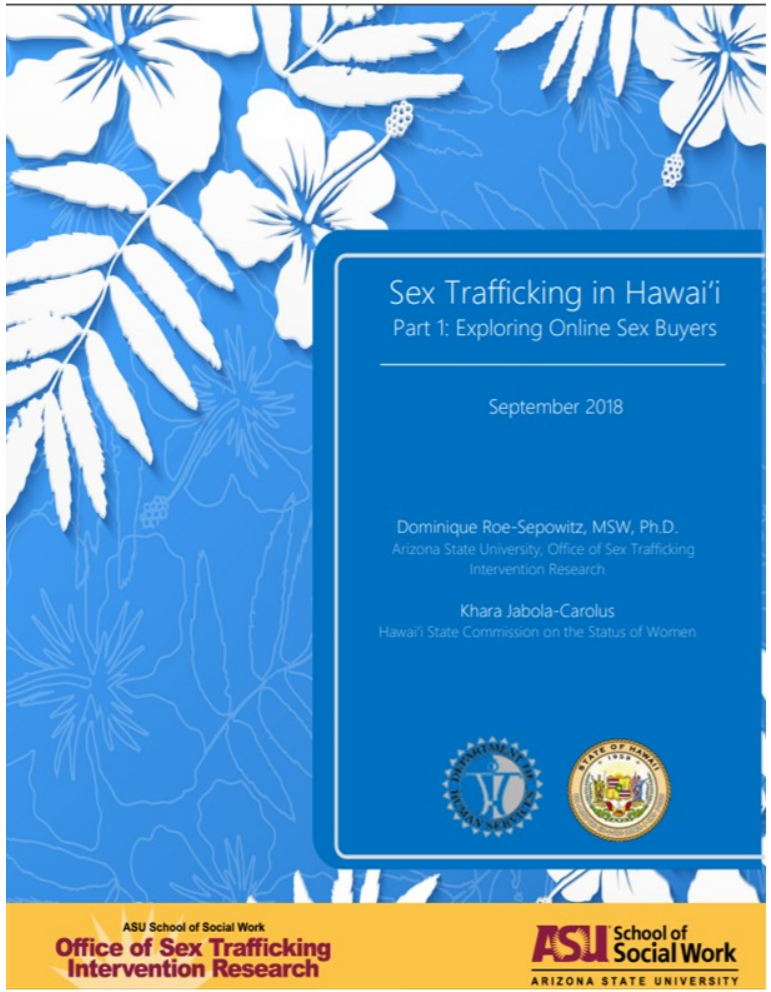
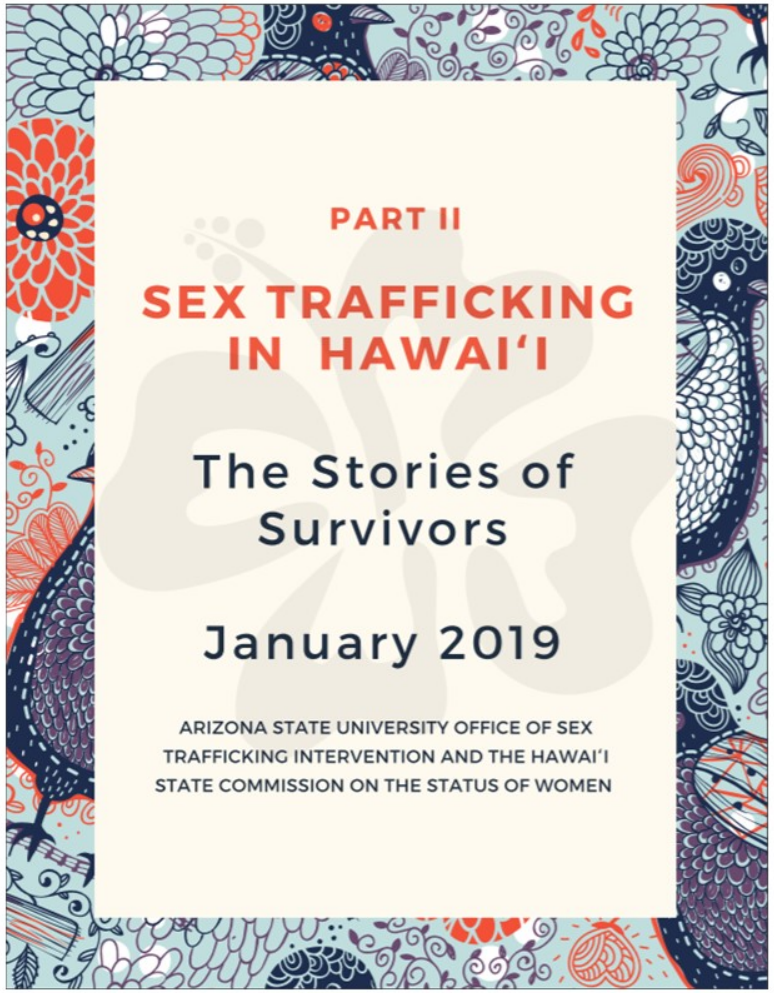
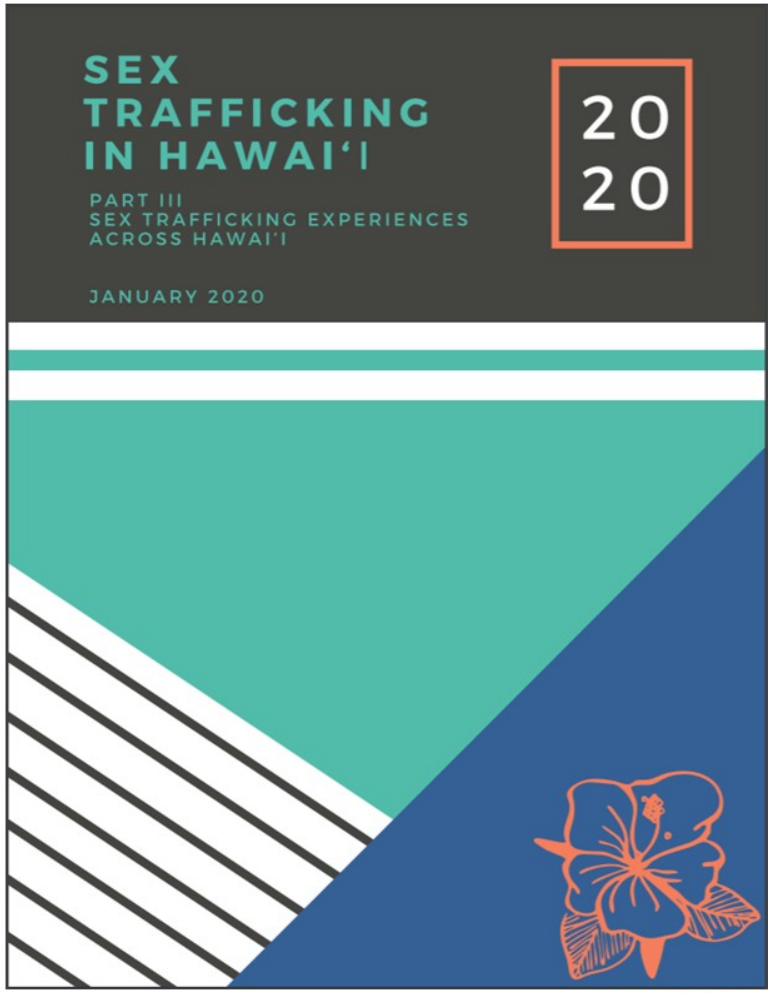
Here in Hawai‘i







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Here in Hawai‘i

Part I:
Exploring Online Sex Buyers

- 1 of 58 sex ads posted on backpage.com in 1 day
- 735 responses to 1 ad in 24 hours
- 407 unique responses

https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Sex-Trafficking-in-Hawaii-Online-Sex-Buyers.pdf

Part II:
Stories of Survivors

- 22 survivors of sex trafficking in Hawaii.
- Relationship to trafficker: boyfriend (13), drug dealer (3), cousin (1), stranger (1).
- Buyers: locals, visitors/tourists, military, law enforcement, doctors, politicians, people in criminal justice system.

https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Executive-Summary-Part-II-Sex-Trafficking-in-Hawaii-.pdf

Part III:
Experiences Across Hawai‘i

- 363 individuals interviewed
- 26.7% had experienced sex trafficking.
- 23% had been first trafficked before age 18.
- 11.3 years old average age of first exploitation.
- Relationship to trafficker: 25.8% were family, 24.7% friend, 24.7% boyfriend

https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ST-in-Hawai%E2%80%98i-Executive-Summary-January-2020-FINAL-2.pdf

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Vulnerabilities & Risk Factors

Being a teen:

- Puberty.
- Transition.
- Desire for love and acceptance.
- Insecurities, low self esteem.
- Desire for independence.
- Tests boundaries and take risks.
- Conflict or poor communication with parents.
- Access to technology.
- Time along in public places.
- Lack of support system.

Environment:

- History of violence or physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.
- Mental health or substance abuse issues.
- Involvement in the Juvenile Justice or Child Welfare System.
- Family dysfunction, breakdown, poverty.
- Family, community, or societal sexualization of girls.
- Family members or friends involved.
- Prostitution in the neighborhood.
- Runaways/throwaways/homelessness.

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The Impact of CSEC

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Impact of CSEC

Psychological Impact of CSEC

Disruption of healthy psychological development
Self-concept, intimacy, beliefs and goals
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Impulse to revisit traumatic events, intrusive emotions & memories, flashbacks, hyperarousal, exaggerated startle reaction, panic symptoms

Self-injurious and suicidal behavior
Dissociative disorders
Anxiety
Paranoia
Clinical depression
Explosive outbursts
Sleep disturbance & nightmares
Bond with perpetrators
Hyper-sexualization

Spiritual Impact of CSEC

Despair
Hopelessness
Lack of belief in humanity
Lack of faith in spiritual power

Physical Impact of CSEC

Continuous physical abuse
Rape & gang rape
STDs & STIs
HIV & AIDS
Loss of bowel control
Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)
Sterility
Facial/dental reconstruction
Tattoos & branding
Brain damage
Substance abuse/addiction
Self-cutting
Suicide/Death

Social Impact of CSEC

Isolation from peer group
Disconnection from community
Isolation from mainstream society
Homelessness
Incarceration/Criminal record as obstacle
Disempowerment
Lack of life skills
Trust issues/Difficulty maintaining relationships
Obstacles to vocation
- Lack of access to legal economies, lack of job experience/skills

Educational deprivation
- Missed school, disconnection with school system

Emotional Impact of CSEC

Anger and rage
Deep emotional pain/grieving
Feelings of humiliation/shame
Stigma of exploitation
Self-blame/Self-loathing
Loss of sexual desire, feelings, or response

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"Youth who have experienced chronic trauma do not believe that the adults around them can or will protect them, and sometimes they are right. What is interpreted as delinquent behavior or pointless acting out is often their attempt to assume the burden of taking care of themselves."

–National Child Traumatic Stress Network

NCTSN The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

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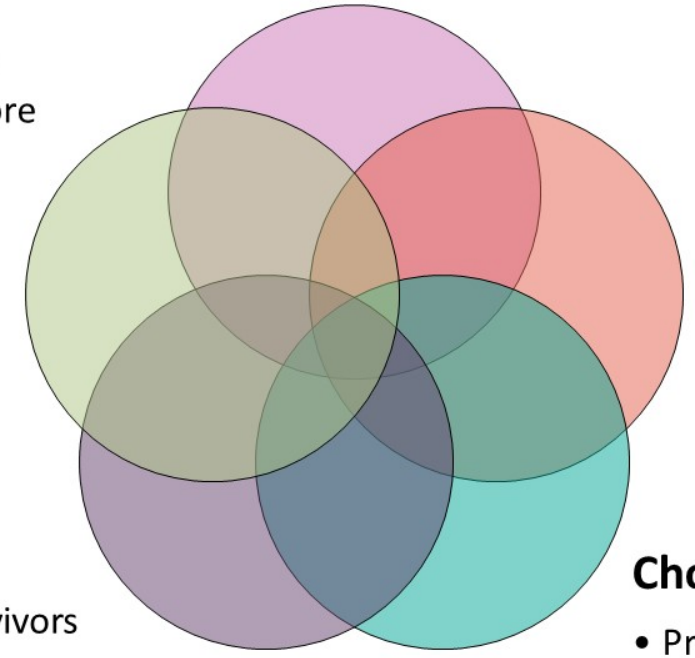
Trauma Informed Response

Safety

- Ensuring physical and emotional safety
  - Environment
  - Body language
  - Structure with predictability, collaboration

Empowerment

- Walk alongside
- Allow self-determination
  - Asking permission before doing
  - Goals set by survivor
  - Respecting survivors' decisions
- Building from strengths
- Skill building



Trustworthiness

- Consistency
- Transparency
- Boundaries
- Integrity

Collaboration

- Sharing power with survivors
- System work together to support survivor rather than overwhelm

Choice

- Prioritize survivor choice
- Allow survivor control

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Hoʻōla Nā Pua Programs

- Education
  - Staff Development; Student Presentations; Parent, Caregiver, Community Presentations
  - Webinars
  - tim.hitchens@hoolanapua.org
- Starfish Mentoring
  - Be a mentor
  - Refer for a mentor
  - Hope & Healing
  - starfish@hoolanapua.org
- Advocacy (peer or systems)
  - 808-435-9555
- Hoku Groups
  - Empowering, artistic, therapeutic groups, in 7 facilities.

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Reporting Lines for CWS

- **Department of Human Services / Child Welfare Services Reporting Line**: (808) 832-1999
- **CWS Reporting Line for Neighboring Islands**: 1 (888) 398-1188

Sheri Daniels, EdD

Executive Director
Papa Ola Lōkahi

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander
HAWAI'I
COVID-19
Response Recovery Resilience
TEAM

OUR PURPOSE

The Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery & Resilience Team (NHPI 3R) was established in April 2020, in alignment with the national NHPI Response Team, to improve the collection and reporting of accurate data, identify and lend support to initiatives across the Hawaiian Islands working to address COVID-19 among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and unify to establish a presence in the decision-making processes and policies that impact our communities. More than 30 agencies, organizations, and departments comprise the NHPI 3R Team.

Co-Leads:

Native Hawaiian – Dr. Keawe Kaholokula & Dr. Sheri Daniels
Pacific Islanders – Josie Howard & Felea'i Tau

Highlights:

- Over 40+ NH&PI partners at the table
- Committee: Steering – SubTeams (PI & NH)
  - Testing/Contact Tracing/Quarantine
  - Social Support & Recovery
  - Data & Research
  - Communications
  - Policy
- National Partners

(808) 357-8268
sdaniels@papaolalokahi.org

https://www.nhpicovidhawaii.net/

Questions?

Mahalo

STATE OF HAWAII
1959
UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO

HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

@BHHSURG

#HealthyWeLiveHawaii #SocialDistancing
#FlattenTheCurve #TogetherWeCan

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