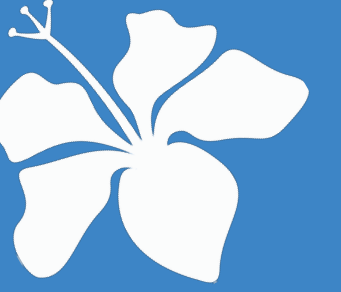
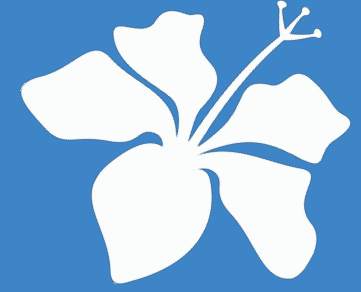


CREATING COMMUNITY FOR SURVIVORS: HOW HAWAI'I LIBRARIES CAN SUPPORT & DESTIGMATIZE SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS



Suzie Collins, MLIS Candidate & Catherine Perez, MLIS Candidate

2014 Stats

- \$625,000,000 spent on sexual exploitation in Hawai'i
- Average age of Hawai'i victim: 17.2-years-old.
- Number of victims who reported being physically assaulted while trafficked: 91 percent.
- Number of victims who reported being raped while trafficked: 77 percent.
- 1 in 5 girls report that they have been targeted for recruitment on Oahu

Ho'ōla Nā Pua: Starfish Mentoring Program, Honolulu

"Survivors of sex trafficking have said that having even one safe and trusted adult in their life was enough to give them hope to go on."

- Health centric, trauma informed training
- Participants aka "Mentees" range between 11-21 years old
- Mentors are adults 21 and older

OUT OF THE SHADOWS: ONE LIBRARIAN'S VISION

San Diego Public Library's initiative has promoted awareness, education, activism and prevention of sex trafficking since 2015

Programs include: System-wide staff training on sex-trafficking victim recognition, community-led think tanks, educational panels and youth advocate recruitment and training

The program began as a grass-roots effort pioneered by Ady Huerta, a San Diego Public Librarian

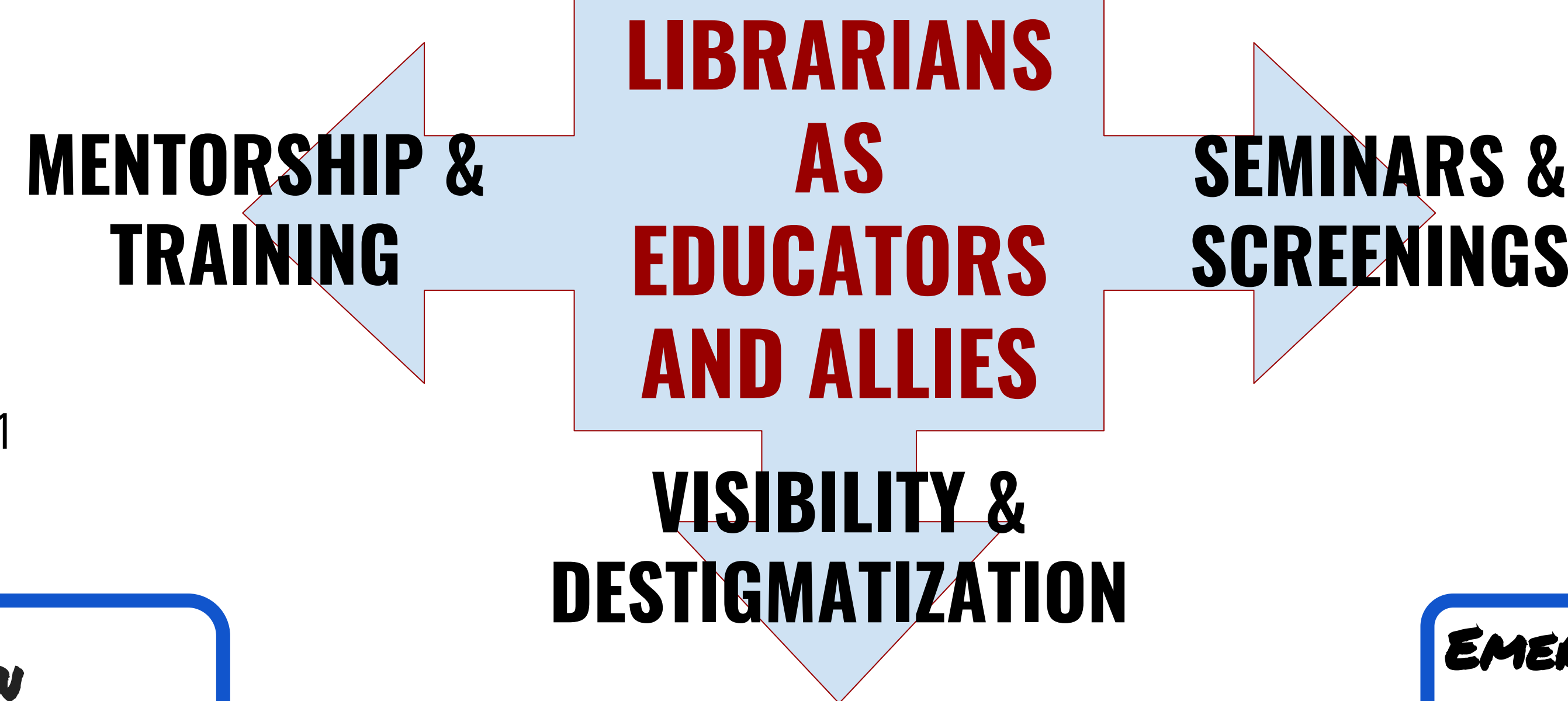
SEX TRAFFICKING is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion or by any means when the individual is a minor under the age of 18. In 2017 there were 6,081 reported cases nationwide, and 17 in Hawai'i. Recent research suggests that occurrence in Hawai'i is under-reported.

References:

- IMUAlliance. (2014). *Sex Trafficking Statistics for Hawaii*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2Q1AaO0>
- National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2018). Sex Trafficking Statistics. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2hgtlRs>
- Jabola-Caolus, K. and Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2018 September). "Sex trafficking in Hawaii Part 1: Exploring Online Sex Buyers." Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2RVe5OW>
- Peet, L. (2016, March 17). San Diego PL Raises Sex Trafficking Awareness. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2zcellp>

Pacific Survivor Center (PSC): Sex Trafficking Outreach & Prevention Program (STOPP), Honolulu

A member of the Hawaii state interagency task force to combat human trafficking since 2008. Focused on areas of Clinical services, forensics, research and prevention of human trafficking, PSC also provides Middle School and High School curriculum and tell survivor stories with their film *Tricked: It Looked Like Love: Sex Trafficking as it happens in Hawaii* and as told by actual survivors.



LIBRARIES HAVE THE POWER TO

- Address the impact of sex trafficking in Hawaii
- Foster public dialogue
- Advocate for survivors
- Increase community visibility and support for local nonprofits

EMERGING RESEARCH: 1 in 11 men in Hawai'i search online to pay for sex.

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women & the Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention released part 1 of their study about Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i. In the study, researchers planted false online sex advertisements on the islands and analyzed the response with shocking results:

- 756 responses in 24 hours to one ad
- 70% of the responses came from 808 area codes
- Responses included recruiters claiming to be on island
- Demand for illicit sex benefits the sex trafficking industry and hurts vulnerable populations in Hawaii.