

Vet center has sexual trauma counselor

Thank you for Diane Chang's March 12 column on Maj. Linda A. Fischer's book about her sexual assault and harassment in the military. The impact of this crime can be long-lasting and have many consequences for the victims, ranging from the loss of a promising career to an ongoing impact on physical and emotional health.

Many who experience this trauma never report it or seek help. They fear reprisals, inaction or simply don't know where to go.

The Vet Centers and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provide services for veterans who have been sexually assaulted or harassed while in the military. Confidential counseling and treatment, and information on veterans benefits and medical care for eligible veterans are among the services available.

In fact, the Honolulu center has an on-staff sexual trauma counselor specifically to assist veterans who have been sexually traumatized while in the military. For information, call the center at 566-1764 or the Honolulu VA at 566-1850.

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