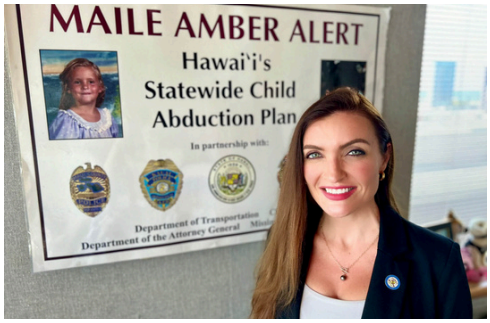
# TELL US YOUR STORY

National Criminal Justice Training Center *of* Fox Valley Technical College

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

## MEET **Amanda Leonard**

*MAILE AMBER Alert Coordinator | Missing Child Center - Hawai'i*




You can tell Amanda Leonard is a Hawai'i native in the way she says her state's name — not the drawn out, Mainlander-style "huh-WHY-yee", but "huh-VA-ee", with a tiny break in the middle. That lifelong connection to her community, Leonard says, informs her work as the MAILE (Minor Abducted In Life-threatening Emergency) AMBER Alert coordinator for the state. "I'm from the island of O'ahu," says Leonard, speaking from her Honolulu office, an AMBER Alert poster on the wall behind her. "I know what it's like to be a kid here, a teenager here, an adult here, a mother here." Leonard believes deeply in the mission of her office and is proud of the work they've done since she began working there in 2018.

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*"Any time we recover a missing child, alive and safe, that is a win for us. We have a **100%** success rate."*

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## TRAINING **Taking a Multi-Disciplinary Approach**

"Any time we recover a missing child, alive and safe, that is a win for us. We have a 100% success rate," says Leonard. She says, however, that success couldn't have happened without significant support from the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC).

"We've leveraged NCJTC to bring training to our law enforcement partners and really move the program in the right direction," Leonard says. "Since we started working with NCJTC, we've consistently had AMBER Alert activations used, and there's just been a greater awareness of the national program and our state program."






*Leonard and team participating in NCJTC's TELMAC Training in Honolulu, HI - July 2024*




*Leonard (right) with her assistant Leina Diamond, and the 2024 Hawai'i Missing Children's Day poster contest winner (center).*

At NCJTC it remains our priority to provide premier criminal justice training and technical assistance to enhance public safety and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

In order to provide that cutting-edge training, we leverage the knowledge and talent of our NCJTC Associate Instructors. As of September 2024, we have **over 300 instructors; all subject-matter experts actively working in their fields of expertise.** *Our team understands the challenges and responsibilities you face because they face them, too.*

It's this unique approach to training that allows us to offer reliable and innovative criminal justice training solutions to Leonard, her team in Hawaii and to law enforcement agencies around the country.

"The NCJTC staff actually came out here and inquired with our different partners: What are the needs of our state?" says Leonard. "They put together a program designed for Hawai'i and planned various trainings around the feedback that they received."

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## RESULTS From Classroom to Real-Life Cases

Leonard says the wide variety of training topics NCJTC offers has been extremely helpful since her office handles four types of missing children cases: lost children, family abductions, stranger abductions, and endangered runaways. She says all the training sessions have been beneficial, but one has been especially critical to their work.

"We recently hosted NCJTC here in Honolulu for the Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children (TELMAC)," says Leonard. "We brought in dispatch, police, state, federal, military, and law enforcement to learn the best ways to respond to these emergency calls of missing, abducted, and exploited children."

Leonard says proof of NCJTC's impact is in the numbers. After not activating any AMBER Alerts for 17 years, her office, with increased knowledge and efficiency from NCJTC training, has had activations once a year since 2022 (as of October 2024). But those statistics aren't why Leonard puts her all into her job every day. She does it to help her local community.

### *Challenges Resolved*

- Maximizing limited resources and staff
- A need for modernized policies & systems
- A way to streamline communication

### *Life-Saving Results*

**17**
years with *no* AMBER Alert activations (pre-NCJTC relationship)

protocols & systems created to support all partner agencies

**100%**
recovery success rate with AMBER Alert activations since 2022

*Visit ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/mcch to learn more about the Missing Child Center - Hawai'i*

# IMPACTFUL TRAINING What Worked for MCCH

Leonard and the team at the Missing Child Center - Hawai'i have embraced a multi-disciplinary approach to their skill development. In addition to the key training courses we've linked, our NCJTC team has also worked extensively with MCCH by providing AMBER Alert training and technical assistance. This includes needs assessments, listening sessions, roundtables, ongoing support and more.

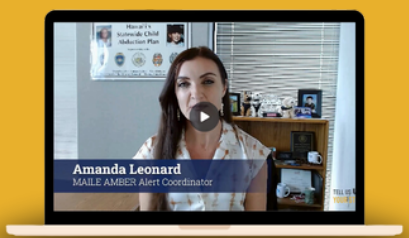
**MCCH leveraged specialized AMBER Alert trainings including:** TELMAC, Investigation & Prosecuting Electronic Evidence-Based Cases, Statement Evidence, Custom AMBER Alert training, ICAC Investigative Techniques and more. In addition to that training & TTA, Leonard's team also participated in the following NCJTC training courses - *learn more!*



*Leonard was awarded the Governor's Dept. of the Attorney General State Employee of the Year award on 9/24/24.*

- Child Sex Trafficking: From Suspicion to Disclosure
- Presenting Evidence in Child Forensic Interviews
- MDT Response to Child Sex Trafficking
- Advanced Forensic Interviewing (CST FIT)

*"There's no better feeling than getting the call that the child is being recovered alive and safe, because you know how much it's going to mean to the families."*




**Watch Leonard's VIDEO interview** and read her full story at **ncjtc.org/tellusyourstory**

# LEARN MORE About the AMBER Alert TTA Program

**20**
onsite & classroom and e-learning courses

**90K+**
people reached over the last decade

**50**
U.S States served through AMBER TTA services

*...plus numerous tribal communities, Canada, Mexico Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Guam, Greece, the U.K., the Netherlands, France, Portugal, Italy, Ecuador and Belgium!*

## *Did You Know?*

On average, **95%** of respondents say they have found AATTAP courses both productive and satisfying and have gained new insights and information they can apply to improve their work, and to advocate for change and improvements within their agencies. **95.32%** of participants felt the course increased their knowledge in the subject area, and **95.41%** of participants said they will be able to apply the information or skills obtained from the course in their profession. For more information on the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance program at NCJTC, our mission and upcoming training opportunities - visit us online at ncjtc.org/amberalert



**Contact Us:**
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NCJTC

# ABOUT

## The Tell Us Your Story Series

NCJTC's *Tell Us Your Story* series **highlights the inspiring successes of our customers** and the **positive impact of their work** within the communities they serve. Watching their video interviews offers you a glimpse into how they've leveraged training to not only improve case outcomes, but to *save more lives.*

Each story highlights real-world challenges and innovative solutions, allowing criminal justice professionals to not only celebrate each other's successes, but also *learn from each other*, as you work to solve similar public safety concerns.

**Highlight Success** **Inspire Others** **Foster Change** **Earn Perks**

*Just as we have for 30+ years, we remain proud to serve the criminal justice community by providing cutting-edge training and technical assistance. It is our mission to empower those we serve to better protect their communities.*

We want to hear your story of **impact.**

*Scan the QR code or visit*
***ncjtc.org/tellusyourstory***
*to learn more!*