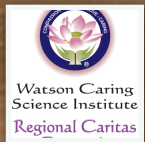


**Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses
WCSI Regional Caring Science Consortia
Free Webinar**

Thursday January 15, 2026 11:00am-12:15pm HST

***Sex Abuse Prevention
Through the Lens of Caring Science***



Dr. Joseph Giovannoni
DNP, MA, MS, PMHCNS-BC, APRN

Dr. Giovannoni is credentialed as a Diplomate of Sex Therapy by the American Association of Sex Educators Counselors and Therapists (AASECT). He is a Post-Doc Caring Science Scholar - Watson Caring Science Institute (WCSI). He is an Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) in the State of Hawaii and a psychiatric mental health/forensic nurse. In 2019, APNA awarded him the Innovation Award for his work with sex abusers. He is a Clinical Member of the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA). Dr. Giovannoni has treated victims of sexual abuse and sex abusers for the past 45 years.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the relationship of adverse childhood experiences to sexual abuse and sexually compulsive behavior.
2. Integrate principles of Caring Science in trauma recovery with victims of sexual abuse.
3. Maintain human dignity with Caring Science micro-practices while holding sex abusers accountable for their actions.

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Dr. Giovannoni's clinical insights on the etiology of sexual abuse are supported by evidence-based research emphasizing that sexual offending behavior is complex and multifactorial. Research indicates that sexual abuse is often a learned behavior influenced by adverse early developmental conditions such as poor caregiver relationships, cognitive distortions, and issues with self-regulation and impulse control. Social learning theories further explain that exposure to sexually violent material and early victimization can contribute, though not all who are abused become offenders, highlighting protective factors like social support and resilience. Through the lens of caring science, Dr. Giovannoni's approach helps health science professionals understand these nuanced causes and contexts. His work promotes awareness by dismantling common misconceptions and stigma, and a model of compassion in therapeutic practice. This humanizes treatment for challenging populations by aiming to reduce shame and resistance, essential for effective prevention and rehabilitation efforts.