



Lauren Wong

**Evidence Specialist
Class of 2001**

By: Shelby Hara

Unlike the popular T.V. series **CSI**, Crime Scene Investigator Lauren Wong's career is more

mundane. She has rappelled down a cliff to photograph a dead body and gone into homicide scenes to search for fingerprints, photograph and collect evidence. In most instances her job is not a glamorous one, but it is very rewarding.

A crime scene is a location where an illegal act took place and comprises the area from which most of the physical evidence is retrieved by trained law enforcement personnel, the crime scene investigators (CSIs). Lauren's official title is Evidence Specialist with the Hawaii Police Department, located in Hilo. She assists detectives in their investigative work. Most of her time is spent in a Crime Lab, where they examine for fingerprints, and test for blood and semen. DNA testing must still be sent to an outside laboratory for analysis. Sixty to seventy percent of her work involves paper work because she has to document her findings and actions.

Lauren graduated from Waiakea High School in 2001. She attended Purdue University in Indiana and majored in Medical Technology. She tested fluids from the human body in a clinical lab setting. Lauren then worked for Saint Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana then transferred to Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu. She later moved back to Hilo and worked at the Hilo Medical Center. She saw an advertisement in the local paper for an evidence specialist which required a degree in scientific discipline and one year of working in a "wet lab". She decided to apply and got the job, which is funded by a temporary federal grant.

Her job requires a lot of attention to detail, thinking outside of the box, and following all guide lines. She is always on call in case there is a crime scene that she has to attend. At a crime scene, her hair must be tied back at all

times, she has to take pictures of the evidence and she has to change her gloves each time she touches a different piece of evidence.

There are many things that Lauren remembers about Waiakea High School. She remembers hanging out with her friends, being selected to receive the prestigious Na Koa Po'okela award, and science teacher, Mr. Dale Olive. Her high school days may be over, but her memories live on.

