

DAREN CHOI AGE 17

My name is Daren Choi. I am a Pearl City High School junior, member of the Kamehameha Swim Club and patient of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific.

A year ago, I was competing in state and international swim meets, breaking high school records and preparing for the 2012 Olympic Trial Cuts.

I was hiking with my friends on a small island in Samoa. I lost my grip, fell 15 feet in shallow water and hit my head on coral. One moment we were having a blast celebrating our wins at the Samoa Games - and the next moment, I was lying completely paralyzed, face down in the water wondering if I would die.

