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Dentist restores laborer's smile and life after accident

By Nancy Arcayna

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Aug 23, 2011

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BRUCE ASATO / BASATO@STARADVERTISER.COM
Laborer Joshua Omalza got his smile back after a disfiguring accident thanks to Dr. Cecile Sebastian, who replaced four of his front teeth.

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Joshua Omalza lost his smile last year after a work-related accident in September left him with multiple injuries, including several missing front teeth.

Omalza, a 35-year-old Haleiwa resident, is a laborer who was working on a weeklong assignment as a pipe layer. After being asked to cut through a pipe, Omalza heard a pop and knew he was in trouble.

"As soon as the blade went into the pipe, I heard it crack, then a loud explosion," he said.

The saw he was using flew out of his hands and wreaked havoc on his body. After the blast it hit his face and knocked out his front teeth.

"My head snapped back, and the saw hit my abdomen and I tore my rotator cuff," he said. The saw also hit his arms and lower back when he tried to flee.

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