

## **Launching Young Women for a Better Tomorrow**

Young female adults in Hawaii without a high school diploma are at a huge disadvantage in the work force. Many of these young women most likely dropped out of school because of social pressures, drug or alcohol addiction, teenage pregnancy or lack of supportive adults in their lives.

My idea for having these young women move forward and provide for themselves is for them to participate in an online educational program that they can do while their children sleep at night or when they have free time. They can enroll in this program while being employed if they are so fortunate to find some type of employment. The program, called "Online Education Launches Women for a Better Tomorrow" (OELWBT) will offer traditional high school courses and will allow the young women to move at their own pace. It will also allow them to retake a course should they be unable to meet the requirements the first time. The young women will even take their tests online. I will work with the Department of Social Services to investigate funds for babysitters if the young women need this service. The young women, ages 15-18, will also be able to seek tutoring and mentoring. The YWCA and the Rotary Clubs of Honolulu will be asked to provide professional women who are willing to mentor and tutor.

With adequate funding and volunteers' participation, hopefully, many young women will thrive in this alternate type of education. If our state is to thrive economically, women must be trained to be effective members of the work force.

An online education diploma will assist young females by boosting their self esteem, making them more job-ready, and preparing them for full-time employment. They, then, can become financially independent and help take care of themselves and their families. My approach will be to work with the Governor's office to have this online program provided by the

University of Hawaii and our community colleges at no cost to the young women who enroll. An effort will be made to obtain used computers from the UH system if the young women do not have one already.

Clarence T.C. Ching believed in the dignity of people, and that included young women. He believed in the value of families, and women are the core of most of Hawaii's families. Clarence T.C. Ching was a progressive type of thinker. Although, during his lifetime, there were probably no online schools for young women, if he were alive today, he would embrace this program. Clarence T.C. Ching would have supported educating young women in every way possible so they can help to make Hawaii a better place to live. Clarence T.C. Ching, I believe, would have enthusiastically supported "Online Education Launches Women for a Better Tomorrow" (OELWBT).