

Cyber-Bullying in Hawaii

For 5 years Iris was best friends with Julia. One day Iris was asked out by Julia's long time crush. Since Iris accepted his offer, Julia became very angry at Iris and ignored her. Iris would try to talk to Julia about the situation but Julia was not interested in discussion. A few days later, Iris received vulgar messages in her instant messaging inbox. Julia called Iris names and told her that she didn't deserve to be alive since she was a backstabber. Iris cried for days, and her school work suffered as a result.

Determined not to be a victim, Iris decided to tell her parents about Julia's activity on the internet. Her parents contacted Julia's parents and Julia immediately stopped posting and messaging mean things to Iris. Though Iris and Julia's friendship was never restored, Iris felt good that she did not resort to responding to Julia's cyber-bullying with similar tactics. Unfortunately, these days more and more people are behaving like Julia did, and not responding to these situations like Iris was able to.

Cyber-bullying is a problem, not only in Hawaii, but throughout the world. It all starts with a target; a person who's reputation could be hurt in some form. The bully can hurt the target in many different ways. They can send angry and offensive messages, continually harass their targets with the crude remarks, make up stories and pass them around the internet, impersonate or hack into accounts, or even trick someone into revealing private information. In serious cases of cyber-bullying, many targets turn to suicide as the answer. This is part of the reason that suicide is the 3rd most common cause of death among teens.

In these times, it is really simple to cyber-bully an unsuspecting target. Since social networking websites are popping up everywhere, it has become very simple to

track somebody's movements and locations. Additionally, it has become quite common for cyber-bullies to steal people's private information from social networking sites, especially if the target has revealed things like their phone number or address. If the target has done this, then it is likely that the information will never go away online, even if it has supposedly been deleted. Using this information, cyber-bullies can torment their targets and yet still be anonymous.

Clarence T.C. Ching believed that education and hard work were the doorways to leadership and success. He gave many generous donations to the private schools of Honolulu. Through these donations, students have been given the opportunity to spark up the excitement and positive attitudes that are necessary to do their very best in school.

A student needs self-esteem to keep on trying their hardest and to know that they can do better. Victims of cyber-bullying may experience low self-esteem, change of interests, or a drop in grades. Clarence T.C. Ching did not give donations to these schools just to have students distracted or harassed by cyber-bullies; instead he wanted them to be able to broaden their horizons of learning.

Cyber-bullying is a horrible thing and can be prevented. For parents, they should educate their children about safe internet use. It is also wise to keep the family computer in the living room, or other areas where there are often people around. Additionally, parents and schools should warn their children about not revealing private information online (phone numbers, addresses, school information, etc). Other useful strategies for combating this problem include: ignoring the bully, telling a guardian or teacher, telling the bully to stop, blocking the bullies, and if the event is more serious, giving consideration to having parents or guardians call the police. If students have been given

this information and are cyber-bullied, they will be much better equipped to correctly handle the situation and TC Ching's legacy of helping students succeed will continue.