

Inspired in Hawaii - Giving Every Student a Chance

When the computer was first thought of, no one could have guessed the magnitude of its influence in our daily lives today. Now, more than ever, schools rely on the use of the internet and modern technologies for learning. Unfortunately, many of Hawai'i's public school students cannot afford a family computer to complete basic assignments. My solution to this problem is to have a place available to these students to complete their necessary schoolwork.

Education and methods of teaching and learning are constantly evolving. The farther into the 21st century we go, the more dependent we are on the Internet and computers for learning and carrying out tasks. Our use of the Internet increases, but some families cannot afford a computer. Only 64% of schools have internet access, according to the Policy Information Report: Computers and Classrooms. Another factor involved is the price of the computers themselves. In 2009, the poverty rate in Hawaii rose 12.5 percent, which means that over 150,000 people live under the poverty line. This number keeps increasing, according to a recent article in the Star Advertiser. Food and basic necessities alone are hard to afford for some, much less a computer. On top of that, some do not have housing at all. The children of Hawaii who live in these conditions suffer because they cannot get ahead. They are unable to learn the proper technical skills to succeed in this rapidly evolving technological world, due to their lack of sufficient income, which is not fair.

Because of the deteriorating economy, schools cannot afford to supply computers for their pupils. Clarence Ching, a very generous and well-known philanthropist in Hawaii, believed that education was key to advancement and succeeding in life. Ching came from humble beginnings himself, with immigrant parents and ten siblings. Money was also an issue for the Chings. In spite of that, Clarence was able to attend St. Louis school and live out their motto,

“Memor et Fidelis,” which means “Mindful and Faithful.” Because Ching was given the opportunity of an education, he was able to support himself and live out a successful life, which he in turn shared with the less fortunate. Following Ching’s philosophy and generosity, we must also adopt this philosophy in order to provide every student possible the same opportunity for a brighter future.

As we know, nothing in life is free. Buying computers for schools and students that need them would be outrageously expensive. A sensible solution to this problem would be to have businesses donate money to provide a room at a community center for everyone to access, so they would have a safe location to work. If everyone pitched in to help, we would ensure that students and families that have fallen on hard times would have every opportunity to get ahead. With everyone’s help, more children would have the skills they need and the crucial educational foundation to help break the cycle of poverty and to jumpstart into a once-impossible future.

Works cited:

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