

Fixing Hawaii's Educational System

Coming from nothing, Clarence T.C. Ching rose through the social rankings through hard work and then gave back to his state like nobody before him. His sense of generosity and community led him to reshape Hawaii. Twenty-nine years after his death, his Foundation still represents his lifelong passion for helping those in need. When I think of something that desperately needs the aid of an organization like this, I think of one problem that is currently crippling the state of Hawaii.

The Aloha State arguably has one of the worst public educational systems in the country, according to numerous national statistics and tests. I believe the main flaw causing the problem is the broken high school system. Between the poor training system for teachers and the now abolished Furlough Friday policy, Hawaii's public high schools have dropped in national rankings as a result. The state government isn't directing enough attention towards this pressing matter and it doesn't look like that'll change anytime soon despite the importance of education. The youth are the future of this state and if their education is continually being neglected, all our state's problems will continually worsen. We need to act now to make a difference.

I see that the problem is not with the student, but rather with the teacher. Statistics show that nearly 55 percent of new-arriving teachers in Hawaii leave within the first five years on the job. My plan is to bring high-level educators from successful schools on the mainland to train Hawaii public school teachers. Few teachers would refuse the opportunity to come to Hawaii, help those in need, and get paid for doing so. This is how we need to fix the educational system. Pouring money directly into the schools or hoping for the government to do something about it hasn't worked in the past and won't work now. This way, educators who are here on their own terms will willingly train the teachers well. Once the local teachers have learned how to do their

jobs better, they'll help their students have a more solid foundation for learning and for life-long success.

The funding for this plan will come from the Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation. Low-level schools will be given the opportunity and a priority in the project that will begin during the summer. The process shouldn't take more than two to three months and cost less than any other means of radically reforming an entire educational system.

After reading *A Prophecy Fulfilled: The Story of Clarence T.C. Ching*, I have learned the importance of philanthropy, and the way I perceive success has changed accordingly. I now see success not only as a personal achievement, but also as a continual avenue of giving back to the community by helping other achieve success. My plan to fix our educational system is how I'd give back to the community, like Clarence T.C. Ching did.