

## **'Ike Pono?**

It's 50 years from now, Hawaii is still a popular travel destination with thousands of tourists a year flocking into the Hawaiian Islands. Little do they know the destruction that has occurred to the native Hawaiian culture. They stroll down the streets enjoying their personal paradise yet they can't unravel the truth. There are only 10 people left who practice speaking Hawaiian. Traveling across the sea is only possible by air no one knows how to traditionally navigate the sea. A lei is purely manufactured by machine and plastic, no one knows how to create one. Burial grounds and sacred places are buried under the towers and toxic cities that hover over them. Hawaiian immersion schools are abandoned. What happened to our Hawaii?

Is this the future Hawaii will face? This future has potential if we disregard and disrespect native Hawaiian culture. Hundreds of cultures have not passed the test of time and we are lucky that Hawaii's culture has survived so far. The problem is that Hawaiian culture and its sacred sites are being ignored and removed to make way for other curriculums and structures. With lack of consideration the Hawaiian culture could die out from not enough interest and, when sacred Hawaiian sites are desecrated it can cause a loss of knowledge. Without proper handling the Hawaiian culture could evaporate through the sea of time.

This is a wide ranged topic to discuss so there can be various solutions. One category of solution is a youth-based approach. One idea that I've created for this category is to have Hawaiian studies and activities mandatory in public and private schools going from K-12 grade. I know that there are already curriculums that are executed in public schools and/or private schools as I had to go through more interactive, hands on workshops. This will give the younger generation the knowledge they need to grow, respect, and study the Hawaiian culture. I believe

this will work because when teaching those skills and traditions it can leave an imprint on them in learning the Hawaiian culture. Teaching history is also mandatory in school, you learn about foreign countries wars and politics. Since other events in history are shared why can't Hawaiian history be taught to? We could teach children about the ali'i that have come before us and much more of Hawaii's history. History isn't the only thing that can be taught effectively there are many other topics to discuss such a culinary practices and ecology. Having a youth-based program can be a very effective solution to keeping the Hawaiian culture strong.

Another category that relates to this topic is protection of cultural sites. This is also a well-known solution but it is not executed to its full extent. For example, nature reserves are stationed in many regions including Hawaii but there are little to no reserves dedicated to cultural sites. My solution is to create cultural reserves for all native Hawaiian sites. These include burial grounds, historic areas, and, of course, sacred Hawaiian areas. What I mean by having the sites being reserved is having the sites be blocked off from the public. This can reduce the amount of pollution and obstruction caused by humans that damages the sites such as littering and graffiti. I also want the sites to be protected for long periods of time with no other changes made to it such as, major facilities and clearings. We could also have cultural groups enter to learn about certain practices. If we create restricted areas designated for protection then we can ensure the longevity of those sites.

One final solution I thought of was to create a TV show describing different aspects of Hawaii's culture and roots. This TV-show could be targeted variety of ages creating some childlike seasons/episodes or more adult based seasons/episodes. In this TV show we could discuss ancient stories, songs, and methods related to daily life. For children the show could tell

tales from ancient Hawaiian lore using a cartoon art style animation and a more grown up approach is to create a show that describes and presents real life people doing the traditions. To be more specific you could have specialists on the show describing what they are doing/creating and how it is related to Hawaii and its culture. You could even have a history or nature segment of the show too. I theorize that this can work because using TV as a learning platform has been used for a variety of shows already so it is a great way to promote Hawaiian culture to all ages. Since we watch TV weekly it is a great method for teaching and learning.

The overall theme of my entry is the protection and longevity of Hawaiian culture. How can this relate to philanthropy? Well Mr. Ching believed in providing educational to those who need it so, my theme relates to the overall purpose of providing education and awareness of the Hawaiian culture. Acting now will change the future because if we start now, there is a higher chance that children and others will be more immersed in the topic now and then they will be able to share that information later in their lives. It is also important to start now because in doing so we are protecting the sites from any future desecration.

By this point in the essay you may be wondering what 'ike pono means, it means to think/act right. By thinking rightfully about our future, we can solve this problem using creative solutions so that we can pave the way for a long-lasting culture. Starting now can change the future 50 years from now. Are you willing to execute these solutions? Are you willing to make a change?