

Restore our Oceans, Nourish the Life

"Life is life's greatest gift. Guard the life of another creature as you would your own because it is your own. On life's scale of values, the smallest is no less precious to the creature who owns it than the largest." -Lloyd Biggle Jr. -Writer

Impatiently, my family and I walked towards one of our favorite beach on O'ahu. It looked so pristine and perfect from a distance. However, as soon as we got closer to the beach, we noticed that there was a stench in the air and trash littered on the sand and in the ocean. The closer we got, the more destruction awaited us, not realizing that even walking on the rough, brown sand that was once soft and white could now be toxic to my family and the marine life. This visit got me thinking, if our beaches are polluted now, how can we stop this before this problem becomes bigger? Like Clarence T.C. Ching's strong desire to help others and make Hawaii a better place, my goal is to bring together and educate our communities about the importance of recycling and water pollution, because no matter what type of species, I believe that all creatures depend on one another. Hawaii's oceans are becoming more polluted due to our continued use of products that emit toxins, which are harming our unique and vibrant marine life.

After my eye-opening experience at the beach, I read a few news articles about Hawaii's water pollution and talked to my family and friends about this problem, and how we could restore Hawaii's beaches. Although, there is no one solution that can reduce water pollution in Hawaii, there are three solutions that when used together can possibly help to reduce our overall water pollution in Hawaii. One solution is to encourage people to recycle more, by setting up and maintaining more recycling bins throughout the state, people will hopefully throw away

trash in the right bin and not just throw it anywhere. This will help save the environment because sometimes there isn't enough recycling bins around, so people will throw plastic waste/rubbish on the ground or in the first bin they see. The second solution is to use an increasing amount of natural and biodegradable products. Since not all plastics are highly-toxic, we could use more items that are either made with natural materials, like cotton, or HDPE (High Density Polyethylene), a recyclable plastic that is made of petroleum, which has no known effects on our health. PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate) on the other hand, emits lots of chemicals that are toxic for any living creature, which should be used in conservative amounts. The third solution would be to raise awareness and encourage people and farmers to use natural fertilizers and pesticides. Egg shells, banana peels, or composting, can be used instead of chemical-based fertilizers like Miracle-Gro, that can seep into the soil and get into the runoff water, which pollutes the ocean.

Hawaii is a place of paradise, and if we don't work together and help stop water pollution now, we might not have the marine life we have here in the islands. If Hawaii works together as one O'hana, I believe Hawaii can change. If we don't change, we may have a future with: more bleached coral, honu with tumors, and a ecosystem destroyed by us. We have a lot of different species of native fish that can only be found here; if there is no life, the fish will never be seen again. Because these creatures are so helpless against us, we should respect their life as our own. Clarence T.C Ching transformed from a sickly, little young boy to a caring, hard working, community leader that made Hawaii a better place. If one place like Hawaii starts it, hopefully the whole world will reduce pollution. By communities work together, we can restore Hawaii into that pristine and breathtaking beach that it once had.

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