

Sustainability

The price of non-renewable resources is skyrocketing through the roof these days. Oil and electricity are getting harder to come by. In Hawaii, we are very dependent on these non-renewable resources which the mainland buys from other countries. Because we get a majority of our things from the mainland, it costs much more to buy it and ship it here.

One fact about our use of energy is that we charge the highest amount of gasoline per gallon, which is \$3.47. We are also the top ranked for the price of electricity per kWh, which is \$0.31. With the amount of energy we generate, 76.9% is Petroleum and 14.1% is coal; in both of these categories, Hawaii is ranked Number 1. Using natural gases pollutes our 'aina and harms wildlife on the island. This means that we are slowly destroying our life here, a place tourists consider paradise. We want our future generations to enjoy what we have right now too. As a Catholic, I am taught that we are stewards of creation and that we all should take care of what God has given us.

Instead of heavily relying on non-renewable resources, I propose that we should switch to renewable resources. This way, it will contribute little to no pollution and we would also have sources that will never be exhausted.

My solution is that we should have a majority of public and private schools on Oahu convert to using renewable resources for energy. Damien Memorial is in the process of installing solar panels and harnessing energy from the sun and using that energy to power a portion of the school. If other schools around the island can incorporate some sort of energy efficient way to minimize the amount of electricity they consume, our environment would be more eco-friendly. We can hold an annual contest to see which schools have used the least amount of energy and

they could get more money to expand their eco-friendly program. It brings competition to all schools and at the same time reduces the pollution in the environment.

The positives to having renewable energy sources include the reduction of pollution, which minimizes the contribution to global warming, and creating many more jobs so that people can work. The last reason is also to employ those who do not have jobs. New industries can hire people so that they can sustain themselves and their family.

This process would take a very long time to convert people to using renewable energy sources, but in the long run it is great for our future. In this way, Hawaii will be more energy sufficient and reliable. Clarence T.C. Ching has inspired me to think about solutions to problems Hawaii is faced with. He cared about everyone, thinking of how to improve life in the islands. This project would help everyone, just like he did, by giving jobs to those who need them and also for thinking of future generations.