

A Solution to Self Expression

Graffiti are writings or drawings that are scribbled, scratched, or sprayed on a wall or other surfaces in a public place. In just Oahu alone, there has been an increase of more than three hundred graffiti cases. Graffiti not only makes our island look messy but it also contributes to litter pollution and can be a major environmental problem. To some, graffiti is a way of self expression, to others, it's vandalism and makes our island seem blighted and decaying. The problem isn't whether or not graffiti is a type of art but rather how we can solve the issue and benefit both sides.

There have been suggested solutions in the past to prevent graffiti such as making laws or putting more security cameras. However, those solutions may not work to the best extent since self expression is really what the "taggers" (those who create graffiti) are really searching for. A solution that I have for this issue would be to adapt the idea of "Moss Graffiti" or "Reverse Graffiti." Moss graffiti replaces spray cans of paint and uses moss instead. To create moss graffiti, all you really need is moss and a blender, as well as liquids such as water, buttermilk, yogurt, and corn syrup. Once blended, the moss becomes a thick, and easy to paint liquid. When you paint the moss onto the wall, the moss grows and keeps the shape that it was painted as. Not only is moss graffiti more beneficial to our health and environment, it looks neater than regular graffiti. Rather than importing spray paints that are used for graffiti, our island could create our own moss paint by holding classes or starting businesses that focus on creating moss paint. Instead of taking away the self expression of others because it may look messy, we can support self expression in a greener, healthier, and environmentally friendly way.

Clarence T. C Ching was a man of generosity, he did the best he could for all those around him regardless of their relation to him. Mr. Ching often had solutions to problems that would benefit everyone. Rather than having a solution that only benefited one side, he made sure everyone was treated fairly and that their voices were heard. As time goes by, there is no saying in whether or not people will stop creating graffiti but there is a say in making our graffiti look less like vandalism and more like art. I'm sure Mr. Ching would agree that both sides should benefit from the solution and that Moss Graffiti is the way to go!