

Is learning life skills just as important as learning algebra or a foreign language? If so, why do schools not teach life skills to their students? After kids graduate from high school, they are expected to act like adults, which means handling their own finances, buying their own necessities, and figuring out what the real world is like. Most kids do not learn how to do any of these things in school, and some do not learn these skills from their parents either. How are we supposed to expect kids from Hawaii to strive for success when they do not know how to open a bank account? This is why we need to include life skills programs in Hawaii's high schools.

If students continue to leave high school without knowing simple "adult" concepts, the state of Hawaii will surely be at a disadvantage. These "adult" concepts include how to manage a bank account, apply for a loan, rent an apartment, and much more. If students continue to graduate without this knowledge, the homeless population could potentially increase. Many people become homeless because they lose their jobs, then are unable to continue to pay for their housing. If these people had learned more about handling their finances while in school, it is possible that they would have had a "Plan B" so that they could continue to pay for their housing while looking for a new job. Although this is a worst-case scenario, it is still possible. There could also be a decreased number of local people running Hawaii's businesses in 50 years if this problem persists. Not only that, but there could be more gang and drug activity in Hawaii if people are not taught how to manage their money. If they lose everything, they may resort to illegal activity in order to gain money. This is a sad reality, but alas,

it is nevertheless a reality.

The solution to this problem is really quite simple. Hawaii's schools need to start programs that teach students life skills. These programs would most likely be after school and for any student wishing to learn more about adult life. Although it would be a bit difficult to incorporate this program in Hawaii's public schools because of a lack of funds, it is more than possible to get it started in private schools. The program would teach high school students simple skills that are extremely useful in life, such as applying for a loan, renting a house or apartment, opening a bank account, and dealing with general finance issues. Starting such a program would be very simple to do, but very effective.

Clarence T.C. Ching cared greatly about the wellbeing and future of Hawaii. His family left their home in China to achieve a better life in Hawaii. If we do not teach students life skills in school, we are not giving them the opportunity to lead better lives. Mr. Ching's Foundation strives to help schools be the best they can be so that students from Hawaii can have amazing lives both here in the islands and afar. This program would also help students to make the biggest difference in the world that they can.

Acting now will impact the future of Hawaii and the world in ways we cannot imagine. If we act now, Hawaii will have better companies and better businesses in the future, because their leaders will be from Hawaii and they will know what is best for the islands. Implementing this program will not only change life in Hawaii, but anywhere Hawaii graduates go to start their lives. We know that students from Hawaii have enormous much potential to change the world for

the better, but in order for them to start their adult lives, they need to know simple life skills. If we are able to teach students these skills in school, they will be able to go out and genuinely make the world a better place.