

In Hawaii, we deal with a huge problem that has been going on for years, which is homelessness. Although the government system has created many solutions, it is still a problem that no one can solve. However, we can still fix this problem; homelessness can't completely vanish, but we can at least decrease its population. In 50 years, when I'm 65 years old, I hope the homeless population decreases and/or that at least there won't be homeless teens and children on the street anymore. If nothing is done, the homeless community will grow---trash will be everywhere and our ecosystem will become ruined, and children will be living on the streets. I propose that the government make more shelters and create jobs for the homeless.

To decrease the homeless population, we can move the homeless people to shelters. In exchange for shelter, they can cooperate with a caseworker to help them get back on their feet. The caseworker can help them get job opportunities or an education. Currently, there are 19 homeless shelters in Hawaii, which includes the 9 homeless shelters in Honolulu. We need to add more in the Honolulu area and it needs to be spread out evenly, so once one shelter is full, he/she will be able to go to another nearby. From that we can also create mentorship programs for them to learn how to save money or to support them throughout the process. We can even have former homeless people to be a part of the mentorship program, that way they can inspire others for the better.

Since Hawaii is considered the ideal paradise island, we must keep it that way by keeping our ecosystem clean and safe. Although everyone does contribute to the trash that are on the streets, beaches, and highways, the homeless community contributes to

most of it. The government can create jobs for the homeless that involves with cleaning up our ecosystem such as highway jobs or being on the beach clean up crew. We can also give them jobs at the homeless shelter; in way they are giving back to the community. The homeless is a problem in Hawaii, but they can be big part of the solution.

Back in August, I went to Kakaako for an event with my sister and her friend, we drove past---not a couple, but a community of homeless people. We were surprised to see so many people with children on the street. A month later, I had heard on the news that a notice went out to the people who lived there to move their belongings and disperse. I feel that this is a temporary solution for an ongoing problem. This ongoing problem will continue to happen and will result an increase in the homeless population.

T.C. Ching, who took pride and joy in his work, developed the Kukui Garden and built a housing development in Moanalua. He provided homes to the people of Hawaii and his developments have only helped the foundation of Hawaii. Over the years, the homeless population is increasing causing our ecosystem to become worse. If we act now, we can reduce the homeless population while still protecting the ecosystem. We, as a state, can improve ourselves by continuing his legacy for the better.