

Just Keep Swimming?

Have you ever seen trash on the beach, or in the ocean? I know you have, because sadly you can find trash at almost any beach. Millions of creatures call the ocean home, and it's filled with trash. How would you feel if your home had garbage in it? Not so great right? It is our responsibility to keep the oceans clean. After all, we create the pollution and rely on the ocean for food and recreation.

I believe if nothing is done about ocean pollution in fifty years this terrible problem will become a lot worse. With factory's all around the world producing tons of plastic and other non-biodegradable waste the problem just gets worse day by day. Also, our factories produce many items we do not need. By reducing demand for useless items and becoming mindful consumers, we can help lower the amount of plastic items that are manufactured. This would help reduce the overall presence of plastic in our environment. Having so much plastic polluting our environment is not safe for the ocean's creatures or us. If this continues I believe there will be more than two times as much garbage in the beautiful oceans. The ocean provides for us with fish and other amazing creatures. If we let plastic get into our food chain it will become contaminated, then we will consume

plastic and the toxins they contain. We must take action now or both the ocean, it's creatures, and we will all suffer the consequences.

Some of my ideas to help stop this problem include putting filters in city drainage systems, and also put some sort of filter in canals that lead to the ocean. However, after we have installed the filters we would need to maintain them more regularly, at least twice a month. We should also have a monthly beach/street/stream clean up that at least one person from every household should go to and earn "community credits" for participating. The credits could be used to pay tuition, buy food or help pay for housing. Fishermen could also participate by picking up a certain amount of trash every month from the ocean that could be turned in for credits against their licensing costs. Also there could be bag stations at every beach next to garbage cans so that people can pick up trash while there at the beach and return the collected trash to the garbage bins. If we all work together we can make a difference.

I connect to Mr.Ching because, we both want to make Hawaii better place for everyone to live. He believed in serving his community and keeping Hawai'i beautiful. Mr. Ching attended Saint Louis school which has always believed in community service

just like Sacred Hearts does. I participate in community service through lil Leo's club to help disadvantaged people in Hawaii. I want to encourage programs that would inspire others to keep our beaches and oceans clean.

If we act now future generations will be able to enjoy our beautiful beaches, learn about our marine wildlife and participate in its preservation. If we don't try to save the ocean now it will be filled with garbage, it will be disgusting not only for us but for the animals that inhabit it, if there are any left. Let's be forward thinkers like Mr. Ching and better our community before it is too late.