

Junk Cars: What They're Doing to Our Islands

What do you think when you hear, "Hawaii?" Your perspective and opinion are dependent on where you live. If you don't live in Hawaii, you immediately think of our islands as being a paradise with beautiful mountains, and beaches. But if you live in Hawaii your view might be a little different. The beaches are littered with trash, so are the mountains. There are homeless people everywhere. But one of the biggest problems is that there are enormous amounts of large pieces of rusted metal, scratched fiberglass, and dented plastic scattered all over our islands. The debris comes from abandoned vehicles that become junk. If this problem isn't taken care of, in fifty years our "paradise" may be overrun with junk cars. Imagine, you wouldn't be able to walk or ride around anywhere without seeing junk cars everywhere you go. You can't park because each parking spot will be occupied by an abandoned vehicle. Let's say you're coming from the mainland on vacation, you look down from your plane hoping to see what you spent thousands of dollars for, beautiful beaches and lush mountains. But wait! Why are there so many old, abandoned cars? Do not despair, though. All is not lost because there are remedies which can solve this problem.

My first idea to solve this problem is to tow the car after exactly one month's time. There would be no exceptions, and the car's parts could be recycled. This is better for the environment as it also helps the junk car problem. The recycled money could be used to get more materials to help the homeless. If the government needs materials to build or do something, they can get the money from the recycled materials to lessen the money they have to pay for new materials. This solution has the potential to kill not only two birds with one stone, but several!

A second solution, and a pretty obvious one, is to simply make the laws on abandoned cars strict and increase the fines and consequences. A few cars are abandoned because people don't want to spend the money to transport their cars to the mainland. It doesn't help to try to save money by not paying for the transport of your vehicle to the mainland if you have to pay a bigger fine for abandoning your car. Also, we shouldn't just give up trying to find the owners of the abandoned cars because we don't feel like going through the trouble. People who want the best for our islands will put in the extra time and effort in order to keep our islands in good shape.

My third and final solution is to collect and give junk cars to prisoners and the homeless. We could assign interested people to a car and an instructor. Both the prisoners and the homeless could learn a trade by fixing and repairing the vehicles. This way the homeless could find employment by working on cars; which in turn might assist them in finding jobs, having an income, and eventually getting them off the streets. As for the prisoners, they could work to lessen their sentence a little and when they are free from being incarcerated, they'll have a trade to fall back on so they could work instead of stealing or getting into trouble all over again. This gets rid of junk cars, helps the homeless, helps prisoners, and creates some new jobs.

Although I am not a philanthropist like Mr. Clarence T.C. Ching, I can still dream of ways to make Hawaii a better place to live. These are my solutions how to help keep our islands beautiful. Hawaii is presently a top vacation site. Whether we remain in the top will depend on us solving the abandoned car problem. What we choose to do today will impact Hawaii's future 50 years from now. I don't know about you, but I want Hawaii to keep being the beautiful home that I live in, and that means no abandoned vehicles!