

Making Housing Prices Reasonable

Did you know that everyday more and more people are getting kicked out of their homes? That is because of the expensive living conditions here in Hawaii. Taxes added on to the cost of living are getting so high that people can't afford to pay rent and have nowhere to go after they are kicked out. Hawaii is already known as the state with the most homeless people. The high cost of living here affects all aspects of our lives. If we don't address this problem, in fifty years Hawaii's homeless population will be increased even more. We need to think about how much the average person makes for a living so Hawaii can construct housing that people can afford.

One way that we can lower living costs is by building houses for people with low income. We could build living accommodations like the ones in Kukui Gardens which were built by Clarence T.C. Ching. One way that we could build the houses is by making them out of affordable materials that are still sturdy enough to withstand natural disasters. The reason why the houses should be made out of affordable building materials is so the rent doesn't have to be too high to repair the houses. Inexpensive building materials are considered "affordable" when they cost less than half of what the average person makes in a week.

Another way that we can lower expensive living costs is by lowering taxes. If we lower taxes people will get more money in their paychecks. It also helps them pay for other costs such as food since those prices are also high. The taxes will lower the costs of food, so people don't have to worry about paying too much to eat. If taxes are lowered, the building prices and rent might also go down so people don't have to spend too much on their housing fees.

A third way that we can lower expensive living costs is by gathering people and educating them about the problem. If you tell others, they can help come up with solutions. The

people who are told, might also spread the word and get more of the community involved. If everyone is willing to help with the problem, then it will be solved faster and easier. Clarence T.C. Ching gathered people to help him create affordable housing and they ended up building Kukui Gardens, so why can't we do the same?

A fourth way that we can lower expensive living costs is by thinking the same way as Mr. Ching did. He thought about how much people normally make at their jobs and how housing could be made more affordable for them. He later then organized a non-profit organization to help support, build, and fund Kukui Gardens. This organization built Kukui Gardens and then sold it for money to continue helping others. The organization donated the money to various schools and health institutions and it still does fund groups who need assistance in meeting their goals and dreams. If everyone continues to think like Clarence T.C. Ching, Hawaii's homeless population will decrease in great amounts.

It is true that you cannot fix a big problem like this by yourself. You need more than one person to help solve the problem. Clarence T.C. Ching didn't solve the problem by himself, he had help from others. However, he did lead the organization and together they helped solve problems. If a few people can build a small housing complex like Kukui Gardens, imagine what could happen if everybody helps solve Hawaii's problem of high housing costs.