

Torturous Taxing

I believe that homelessness and poverty are huge problems in Hawaii in fact according to hawaii.newsnow.com, 46 in every 10,000 residents of Hawaii are homeless which is the highest in the nation. General Excise Tax contributes to this problem and taxes the food Hawaii's citizens you need to survive. Everytime you buy something, it taxes 4.712% which can make a difference and can add up. GET taxes everything you buy, including groceries which are things you need to survive! How is it fair that you need to pay extra on things that you will die without? This is a problem in Hawaii that we need to fix because people are going hungry and it simply isn't fair and just to tax your groceries.

If this problem doesn't get fixed in 50 years there will be a larger homeless population and GET has never declined so it is extremely likely that it will increase as time goes on. According to www.taxfoundation.org, 74% of states have no sales tax on groceries so if more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of states don't have it then why does Hawaii have this tax on things that we need to live? In fact only 4 states in the U.S fully tax groceries and it is simply unfair! In Hawaii, prescription medication is already exempt from this tax so why can't groceries be exempt too? The cost of living and cost of food is right up there with the highest in the country. For most families it is hard to make ends meet and both parents have to work to support their family. This tax is taking food out of people's mouths and it is simply criminal for the government to be doing this! If we don't act now then future generations will find it harder and harder to afford to live in Hawaii. So we need to act now and I have some suggestions for some possible solutions!

One possible solution is to take away GET on groceries, and then add it to more luxury, unnecessary items like cars and expensive jewelry. Another possible solution is for the government to cut back on their already bloated spending habits and to stop throwing away money on useless things! In my opinion, they should be able to set a budget and consider what they're spending their money on. If this happens the government should be able to take this tax away on groceries so this human right for food can be satisfied. Hawaii residents are already paying a premium for their groceries

for them to be shipped out here so the government is double taxing us! I am not trying to propose to take away GET fully like on soda, candy, and such because it does make a significant amount of income for the government but to simply take it away from the basic food necessities.

I think that Mr. T.C. Ching's vision and philanthropy connects to my problem because he was a man who always wanted to help people. He wouldn't want food to be taken out of people's mouths because it is being unfairly taxed and he also wouldn't want people to be homeless because of this tax. He would want no one to go hungry and he certainly wouldn't want people paying a premium for basic food necessities! This solution will help people just as Mr. T.C. Ching's trust helps good causes to this day.

It is simply the right thing to do to fix this problem and take away GET on groceries because this is a crisis and people aren't getting the healthy food they need to survive. I would like to think that if over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nation has none or reduced GET that it would be a sign to Hawaii that we are doing something wrong here. Also, I feel that if the government cut back on their spending standards and added some of that tax to more luxury, unnecessary items, that the government wouldn't be at too much of a loss. I believe that Mr. T. C. Ching would agree with my statement about GET because he would want things to be fair and since he was a philanthropist he would want every human (including the less-fortunate) to be treated right and to be able to get the items they need to survive. This problem is real and if we act now, generations to come will thank us for giving them the opportunity to get the things they need to thrive in their life.