

Better Buildings and Better Communities

Hawaii is a wonderful state to live in and represents the beauty of nature. As adults and kids, we are very fortunate to live in an oasis island. In the past decades, Hawaii has been building grand buildings such as hotels, condominiums, and more. I believe that construction of tall, high-rise glass buildings ruin the beauty and nature of Hawaii. The sacred and natural land is disappearing. It's loss is endangering the environment, culture, and ecosystem in Hawaii.

The loss of Hawaii's beauty is an urgent problem now and could be a major problem 50 years from now if we don't do anything about it. Imagine landing at an airport and you look out of a window, tall high-rises everywhere with glass windows and no trees and tall structures built just for parking. With all these tall glass buildings, you will feel the heat, you will be surrounded by reflections, and you will be blinded by the sun's brightness. The high-rises make you feel in a rush and you don't socialize with anybody. People will not travel here just to see buildings.

One solution to preserving more natural land in Hawaii is to change the city environment and make it more of a natural and community city. We should plant more trees on the sidewalks and at parks so that we can have a cleaner air and feel more relaxed. We should limit the number of high rise glass buildings and use more environmentally friendly construction materials so we can spend less money and have a more unique neighborhood. We should build more balconies with more trees so it can look better and more original. We should have more pieces of artwork on buildings or at parks to encourage creativity, connect with their community, make the places more beautiful, and make people smile. We should build more roof-top or balcony gardens for fresh foods and a clean air with a friendlier society.

My solutions to make Hawaii a better place connect to Clarence T.C. Ching's vision for building communities. Mr. Ching wanted to build places where people can interact and have celebrations, such as the Chinese Cultural Plaza in Honolulu. We both want people to feel comfortable and happy in a community. I didn't know it, but Mr. Ching had a big impact on my family and Hawaii. My Dad grew up in Kukui Gardens in Honolulu. He lived there for over 10 years and walked to his nearby school. It was an affordable and convenient area to live in. Like Mr. Ching's vision, my solutions can help both Hawaii and community come together.

If we make these changes today, we can preserve Hawaii's natural beauty, reduce pollution, and build cities that are environmentally friendly. Imagine the future once again, but this time you see vibrant colored building with huge murals on the walls and sculptures in the parks. You can smell aroma of fresh plants from the gardens up above and the trees on the balconies. You feel much more relaxed, you talk to others and the air smells wonderful and clean. By reducing the number of glass buildings and adding more trees and artwork, Hawaii will remain one of the most unique and beautiful places in the world.