

Effectively Coloring Our State

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In Hawaii there are many beautiful sites to see like the crystal clear waters, breathtaking green mountains, and wonderful people spreading the word of ALOHA. However, our aina(land) is being destroyed by this terrible problem, graffiti. Graffiti is ruining parts of our island by, making this hypnotizing paradise into a dismal looking place. In other countries, like Singapore, graffiti is illegal, so if you spray paint, you are either charged with a fee or sent to jail. Graffiti is becoming an epidemic. Wherever you drive or walk you will find graffiti. You will find graffiti everywhere, whether it's in a: public restroom, a wall along the highway, people's property, schools, and stores. I feel the spread of graffiti can be displayed in a more positive way.

Graffiti could be bad or good. It could be shown in a good way as an art form; only if the artist has gotten permission from the owner of the property. It could be shown in a bad way by symbolizing gang codes or just plain vandalism. There are eight types of graffiti. Tagging is the simplest type of graffiti. It is used by writers to display their signature. Tags can be seen everywhere and are done in spray paint, markers, and pens. It is considered disrespectful to tag over another tagger's tag. A piece is a graffiti painting and has a minimum of three colors. It is more respected as an art form. It requires more skill and artistic talent.

There are three reasons graffiti artists do graffiti. One is to communicate to gang members. Another is doing it just for vandalism, and three is using it as an art form. If the graffiti artists do their graffiti on public or private property that they do not own, they are breaking the law by creating vandalism. I believe a possible solution is to create events that show off the artist's skills and allow them to each different styles of graffiti. I think there are three ways to solve the graffiti problem. One way to solve it is to have meetings that inform people about the art of graffiti. It gives them an opportunity to learn from each other and develop better skills. It would

be helpful for them to have a place to meet and an area where they could practice. The public could be informed that there are groups of graffiti artists who would like to display their work publicly and maybe they could help provide places to practice. For those people who don't want to improve skills and just like to damage other people's property, the penalty should be raised, either by charging higher fines or sending them to paint over their own graffiti, as well as others'. An event called "POW WOW" has been created in Hawaii for people to display their graffiti to other people and share their ideas. People come every February, from all over the world, to participate, so why not continue to advertise this important event. Even graffiti artists need role models and one to look up to is Clarence T C Ching; he made good choices to benefit others.