

Disturbed Homes Underwater

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Have you ever wondered who and what lives underneath the surface? If you step on a coral reef, you could end up killing its inhabitants. Even if you accidentally left a little bit of trash on the beach, there is a chance that you could have killed a coral reef and a couple of fish. A couple pieces of missed trash left on the beach can easily get washed out to shore and get stuck on an underwater plant or creature. Hawaii has 80% of the United States coral reefs; marine biologists have been trying for years to come up with a solution to keep Hawaii's coral reefs safe. Marine biologists have some ideas that are working; but we still need to figure out a way to save the coral reefs, as well as its residents.

Sometimes when we are out in the sea, it's hard to see coral reefs, but it's important that the coral reefs are protected. In Kaneohe, Oahu a boat crashed on top of a coral reef. The boat stayed there for five days. The city and county hired marine salvage contractor Parker Marine, worldwide to try to take the boat off the coral reef. In order to do this, the tide had to be high enough so that the rescue boat could get as close as possible and not damage the coral reef. In trying to accomplish this, the overpowering boat killed 100 heads of the coral reef. This same coral reef took years to grow and form into this beautiful piece of the sea, but one small accident made by man destroyed it.

The reason that marine biologists aren't solving the problem is; they need to research and that can be expensive. However, going out into the community and raising funds will one: open their eyes to the problem, two make them aware of this silent problem, and three, encourage others to join in on finding a solution. Having fun fairs at schools, where science is so important, is one way to raise money. Everyone likes a fun fair and I feel that everyone would want to donate their time, money, and energy to help preserve our island's reefs. Another idea may be to approach the companies that offer tourists undersea adventures and ask them to donate some of their profits to research, so that they may continue to share the beauty of the islands that people love to see.

Along with putting signs up and raising money for further research, people's attention to our beautiful reefs must be ongoing. I am aware it will cost money, time, and effort, but I think that we might be able to form barriers so fish can continue to flourish in their environment. Just like Clarence T.C. Ching, if we work together, we can solve this problem because as a community, we are strong and I know that my love for the islands not only ends with me.