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T.C. Ching "Solution to Homelessness" Essay

Hawaii has a lot of homeless people. Living in Kailua, we see it everyday: people sleeping in every nook, cranny, and shady spot they can find. Every time you drive through Kailua you see at least five homeless people on the street. Some are very kind. Some are mentally challenged. Some are just lethargic. But all of them are suffering from a growing national problem: homelessness.

In Hawaii alone there are 4,171 homeless people, an increase of 15% from last year. Hawaii is one of only four states that have 46 or more homeless people per 10,000 total people. The bad economy, the price of housing, and the challenge of getting a job are causing homelessness across the U.S. But why are there so many homeless in Hawaii? The answer is simple: if you must be homeless, our islands are the best place to do it, with nice people, easy lifestyle, warm and fairly dry weather, plenty of charity, and lots of other homeless people. It is far cheaper to get a \$300 to \$800 plane ticket to Hawaii than it is to pay \$500,000 (or more) for a house, car, and insurance among other things.

Obviously, we need a solution. But we constantly have other problems that are always headlining the news: the environment, terrorists, and disease to name a few. Why not kill two birds with one stone? If jobs could be created for homeless people that would solve these problems, we could do just that. Why not create opportunities for homeless people to help the environment by giving them jobs like cleaning up trash, filtering water, and hosting recycling drives? And instead of spending all this time trying to get volunteers to go on trips to places like Africa to help the poor, why not pay the homeless

to do so? They could really connect with people who were poor though personal experience; they'd be great for the job. And where would all of this money come from? Instead of the government and charities paying people just because they're poor and need it to survive, we could redirect that money towards organizations that would offer those sorts of jobs. That way, homeless people would still be getting the money, but gaining experience and self esteem as well, and on top of that, other huge world problems could be solved. I propose that the T.C. Ching foundation offer scholarships that are specifically aimed at Homeless people between the ages of 18 and 50. The applicant would have to show that they have worked hard to get a job (or already have one) and show enough potential that if they were to get a college degree, they would go far with their schooling. I also think the T.C. Ching foundation should build homeless houses. At these homeless houses, volunteers would feed, supervise, and care for the mentally challenged, who wouldn't be able to gain from job opportunities. With job openings, homeless houses for the mentally ill, and scholarships for those who deserve them, we could solve a number of problems all at once.

My solution was inspired by the T.C. Ching foundation because T.C. Ching was a man who realized the value of money. After all, he was rather wealthy. I think that Mr. Ching would like the idea of having people work (and therefore learn and gain experience) for their money instead of having shelters, cash, and food just given to them. The dignity gained by having a job would be an incentive to get off the street and make the world a better place. I think the problem isn't the homeless, but the causes of homelessness, and I think my solution would solve the later.

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