

OCEANS OF LOVE

Hawaii is known for its beautiful, scenic beaches and pristine waters that attract droves of paradise-hungry tourists every year. But, behind those picturesque images, many of our beaches suffer from pollution that may potentially hurt our future.

While at Bellows Beach for a cleanup, my friends and I found countless bottle caps, pieces of plastic, ropes and other miscellaneous trash lying on the sand. We collected 10 trash-bags full of trash. I was stunned. I didn't realize how littered our beaches were. This pollution is, not only an eyesore, but it also harms the environment. Every year innumerable amounts of trash, left on our beaches, washes into our ocean where sea creatures like the honu, Hawaiian monk seal and other animals swallow the trash, choke and eventually die. This is not the Hawai'i for which we are known.

But there is still hope for a better, cleaner future and the Clarence T.C Ching Foundation plays an important role in this. With the help of the Clarence T.C Ching Foundation, an outreach program could be funded to go out to communities and educate people about the importance of maintaining clean beaches. The 'Oceans of Love Outreach Program' –as it will be called- will educate people in communities around Hawai'i about the importance of maintaining clean beaches. Most workers for the Oceans of Love Program will be volunteers. Oceans of Love will go out to schools and educate students about the importance of keeping clean beaches. Children are the most receptive to change, and by educating them, a brighter future is imminent.

The school program will consist of a day in the classroom discussing about the importance of clean beaches followed by a fieldtrip day to a nearby beach where students will have a hands-on experience in cleaning the beach. This will help them get a clearer view of the

importance of keeping the beaches clean. Oceans of Love will also go to seaside communities like Kailua, Waimanalo and Ewa Beach. Community clean up days will be organized to create awareness amongst seaside communities about the importance of a clean beach. By doing this, residents will be involved in keeping their neighborhood clean and make a difference in their environment.

The T.C Ching Foundation is known for grand donations and projects, but small programs like these, such as the Oceans of Love Outreach Program, can still make a big difference in the community. By educating children and seaside residents, the beaches of Hawaii will be clean, and our islands can then live up to its paradise image for years to come.