

To Keep or Not to Keep

Clarence T.C. Ching helped out those who were in need, or if there were a statewide problem, he would try to solve or address it the best he could. The Clarence T.C. Ching foundation donated money to build the dance room of Sacred Hearts Academy and the Arts and Science center for Saint Louis School. The foundation donated money to keep the arts going in these schools. The performing art programs in the public school system are losing funding, causing a problem in Hawaii.

With the bad economy, the Department of Education does not have enough funding; performing art programs all over the island are thus affected. They have a hard time keeping their programs going and finding good shows to put on so that ticket sales will generate more money. The programs need the money to pay for leases and insurance to run the shows. Without the money, the schools cannot put on quality shows that will get them ticket sales, which in turn will get them the money they need. The funding being cut puts the programs in jeopardy of having to shut down for good. Castle Performing Arts Center (CPAC) at Castle High School lost their funding this year and almost closed down. CPAC is one of the most popular programs on the island, and has a reputation for putting on quality shows. If their program were to shut down, all the children that they turned around would go back to their old, less desirable ways.

A way to get funding for the schools is to hold a charity show at one of the theatres and to feature the kids from the programs, displaying their talents. The result of doing this show would be that the schools would get a chance to do the numbers they liked and they would not have to pay as much for the rights and insurance. It also would draw donors who would donate money to the schools so that they might keep going with their programs. This will also give these programs

an audience for shows so they can make their ticket sales, and they might get monetary donations to run the program.

Performing arts has been proven to help kids learn, improving in all their academic classes. They help raise self-confidence in individuals. Not supporting these programs could hurt the future generation and performing arts could disappear from Hawaii.