

The Ocean's Worst Nightmare

I love the ocean because it brings me inner peace as the spray of water hits my face. I also feel refreshed when riding waves even for a short time. Every year on the Fourth of July, I go to Kalama Beach Park with my family, and we spend the whole day there. This year, when I was swimming, I suddenly felt something twirl around my leg. A bit frightened, I looked down to see what it was, and it was.....a plastic bag.

The amount of water pollution in Hawaii is increasing, and this concerns me for health reasons for humans and sea creatures. Water pollution is becoming an even bigger problem in Hawaii because our economy relies on our tourism. Our tourists come here thinking the beaches look like what they see on post cards or in movies, and sometimes conclude that our water is disgusting. If pollution gets worse, the tourist will no longer come, and our economy will slowly, but surely, continue to go downward.

Our beaches are often littered with many pieces of plastic, plastic bags, and other types of debris. Water pollution often starts by rubbish getting thrown onto our streets and going down our street drain or getting blown directly into the ocean. The sea creatures are most at danger, because they may mistake the garbage as food. Birds may also eat small pieces of plastic, thinking it is zooplankton, their food. Sea turtles may eat a plastic bag, mistaking it for the sea turtles' favorite snack: jellyfish. Also, some of our garbage can also kill the coral and make some of our beautiful fish homeless. Indeed, many beautiful marine animals may become extinct from a result of our careless actions that cause severe water pollution.

To solve this problem, I will ban store registers from using plastic bags, and I will also work to raise the taxes on plastic bottled drinks. Also, raising the amount of money for recycled

bottles so people receive a little bit more money for doing recycling will help to save our ocean and the very important sea-life. Finally, as a student, I will start a club that may go to the beach every Sunday and pick up all the rubbish. I will ask my school to give students credit for community service for doing this.

Clarence T. C. Ching was born poor although his father never stopped believing in him, and Clarence never stopped reaching for his dreams. This is why Clarence T. C. Ching died an unforgettable business man. I believe that with believing and reaching for our dreams, we all may soon find the solution to this problem of water pollution together. Clarence T. C. Ching tried to help with this pollution problem by covering up the polluted lake by the Honolulu Country Club which is now a golf course enjoyed by many locals. He tried to solve a problem which was too big for one person so this makes me believe that we must all cooperate to make sure Hawaii remains a group of beautiful islands.