Hawaii's Housing

Hawaii: The Next 50 Years

Hawaii is home to about 1.4 million people, maybe even more. Sadly, about 8,000 people (as of 2016) don't live in a house or an apartment, they live in shelters or makeshift homes on the streets. There are so many people without a home, and everyone needs and deserves a home. We are having what is called a housing crisis. I've thought of some ways to solve this housing crisis.

One problem is that land in Hawaii can be expensive. My solution is to have money from taxes set aside to help people pay for the land a house is on. So, the people who need help own the house, but the community owns the land. Land is typically around 20% of the cost of a new building, but that will still help cover the cost of a house. This strategy paying of for the land has worked in Burlington, Vermont. Find the whole idea in the article "How Bernie Sanders Made Burlington Affordable", by Jake Blumgart, on Slate.

Another problem is that it's expensive to ship in materials from other places to build houses. We should just use materials already in Hawaii. We have already used recycled materials at the housing at Sand Island in the shipping containers. Or instead of refurbishing like that we could melt down old, used things to make materials to build a new house. For example, you could recycle cans and make roof shingles.

Lastly, a serious problem is the difference between the price of a house and a salary. Even though salaries have grown, the cost of housing has grown even more. My idea to fix this problem is to make an apartment building that is

similar to a dorm building with many floors. This building would have shared areas on each floor, like kitchens and bathrooms. Building shared rooms would be less building than having one of these for every unit, so it would be cheaper to build.

These are some of my ideas on how to make housing more affordable. So maybe if we have money set aside to help pay for land, use recycled materials, or have housing with shared areas, we can help everyone get a home!