

Star - Bulletin - Nov. 10, 1976

## UH Officials Recommend

ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

# Downgrade Ethnic Studies

By Gregg Takayama  
Star-Bulletin Writer

University of Hawaii officials today said the Manoa campus Ethnic Studies Program should not continue in its present form.

The 12 courses should be distributed among other departments, such as American Studies and Sociology, said Acting Manoa Chancellor Geoffrey Ashton.

He said the program has not met many of the goals set in 1970, when it was established as an "innovative" program.

"If we considered it a failure, we would have recommended it be abolished altogether. The courses have some merit and the students want to take them," Ashton said.

THE MANOA DECISION HAS to be approved by President Fujio Matsuda and the Board of Regents. Supporters of the Ethnic Studies Program are expected to barrage the regents with pleas to continue the six-year-old program.

In essence, the situation is now the same as it was in 1972, when University officials made the same recommendation. Ethnic Studies backers launched a series of campus sit-ins and pressured the regents into continuing the program on a "provisional" status, on which it still exists.

Davianna Alegado, acting director of the Ethnic Studies Program, in a recent interview said, "In 1972 they tried to separate the program into the different existing departments, but we don't think that will accomplish the same purpose. Ethnic Studies should be developed as one entity."

Vice Chancellor Ashton, who is replacing the vacationing Douglas Yamamura, said the chancellor is fully aware of the recommendation.

REASONS CITED FOR THE decision are:

—"None of the current faculty are associated with established departments, nor do any of the faculty from established departments ap-

pear to participate in the Ethnic Studies Program."

Faculty members in the program have remained for only short times, resulting in low academic standing for them, the report said. None are tenured.

—The tendency of the program to have students enrolled in studies of their own ethnic groups, taught by instructors of the same ethnic background.

THE PROGRAM'S OWN REVIEW in 1974 said, "For example, the Japanese Ethnic Studies course, which is composed of 90 per cent students of Japanese ancestry, has predominantly Japanese student lab leaders."

—The high grades given in Ethnic Studies courses. Of students receiving letter grades, 76 per cent got A's, compared to 34 to 38 per cent in other departments.

—"The administration is further concerned that points towards grades seem to be given for projects involving various issues."

Property of  
ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII