

■ ACCESS, the Legislative Information Service, is at 296-4636.

would be computed on a high salary and with the extra-octane multiplier.

It became, in effect, a lucrative goodie to dangle before ostensibly independent legislators.

Under Cayetano's bill, lawmakers would keep the high multiplier for their years of service in the Legislature, but would split off computation of benefits for years served in an appointive post. The pension windfall would disappear.

This is sound, reasonable legislation. It must not be buried.

# es ggest tenant

that the state no longer leases empty space. He will also continue to observe a moratorium on leasing new space initiated by his predecessor in October.

So much for the truly scandalous aspects of state leasing. Next is the need for serious cost-cutting.

Imai says he plans to cut spending for office leasing by

or health care to an extent that makes many people highly uncomfortable — and may endanger their health.

There is a new emphasis on effi-

more efforts by hospitals to trim costs. More efforts from HMOs, insurers and employers to get discount prices. More pressures on physicians to follow HMO and insurance-compa-

the cost-cutters and the administrators when they interfere with optimum treatment if we are to be comfortable and safe with our health care in the future.

# Hawaiians must decide fate

By S.P. Udayakumar

I am a "foreigner" and the U.S. immigration defines me as a "non-immigrant alien."

Implied in these phrases is a subtle but loud and clear message that I am not "domestic" or "insider" and hence I do not count in the political community here.



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Although the "imagined communities" reign supreme today, the fact remains that Hawaii has become part of me and that part will cease to exist only when I die. I have lived in Hawaii for

more than four years and have absorbed a lot of things from this land, water, air, and beings.

Whenever I wonder who I am, or what my identity politics is, Hawaii comes to my rescue. Hawaii appears to be a good example because this "melting pot" produces all kinds of inter-racial, inter-religious, inter-lingual and inter-national miscegenation of peoples and undermines some key killing identities. But when I see the blood of Hawaiians spilled around this copulation, Hawaii makes me



aware of invasion, usurpation, imperialism, colonialism and racism.

Hawaii instills hope in me as the humans here try hard not to take the past injuries and traumas out on each other as people do in Bosnia, India, Rwanda or elsewhere. On the other hand, Hawaii induces fear in me when the native people's sufferings are dismissed as remote history or some form of human inevitability.

The debate on Hawaiian sovereignty is not just an isolated group of people's identity politics but a miniature version of the broader predicament of humanity. It is all about recapturing and retaining a socio-economic-political space for themselves. Is that wrong or bad?

Why do some people view sovereignty as separation, and despise it as the creation of the Other?

Everything in this universe exists only in relation to the Other: Heaven and Earth, day and night, ani-

mate and inanimate, humans and non-humans, men and women and so forth. The idea is not deceiving ourselves about the eradication of the Other, but transcending the Other.

To transcend the difference, one has to know about one's self, one's history and heritage, one's strengths and weaknesses, and pluses and minuses.

It is a matter of great misfortune that the identity politics overshadows human transcendence and results in mutual hatred, communal riots, internecine wars and so forth.

Negating a people's existence and dismissing their legitimate concerns is not the answer. Hawaiians as much as anybody else on the Earth have only two choices: striking roots somewhere and expanding from that base in all directions and reaching for the unknown, or indulging in the pith inside one's seed and getting decayed and swallowed up by the soil.

Humans are nothing but walking trees. Advising someone to float in the sky is as ridiculous as planting a tree upside down.

Let Hawaiians decide what they want.

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