

A MESSAGE TO OUR STUDENTS

THE ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM directly involves the students. It is the students that give life to the Program and it will be the students that will insure the continued existence of the Program at the University and the transformation of education into a force that serves the community and our people. It is students that will give their time and energy to produce materials for the Program and for their communities. In a real sense the staff and faculty are also students as we have much to learn about the living history of Hawai'i and the development and struggles of people around the world. Knowing this, we are building the Program on the following principles.

Principles of Ethnic Studies

1 — Development of social consciousness — emphasis on our ability to work together and contribute to each others's learning process rather than on individual performance.

2 — Democracy and Self-determination — integrating student and community into the administration, decision making, and teaching and learning process of the program.

3 — Teaching by discussion and application of knowledge rather than by rote — open book examinations with emphasis on ability to find and coordinate knowledge rather than memorizing materials. Assignments that contribute to the Program and community rather than a regurgitation of lectures and readings.

4 — Peoples' history — history is made by people and their struggles for social development. Our role, even in the classrooms, is to participate in making history.

5 — Practicality — course materials must be directed towards solving practical and pressing problems we face. We learn through application of knowledge to solving problems and making history.

6 — Egalitarianism — no teacher/student roles. We must all teach each other and learn from one another. Education must be for everyone, not just for the rich, the privileged, the talented. If anything, our role as staff is to serve the interests of the students and community.

7 — Welcome criticism — our performance must be criticized and evaluated by all of us. Continuous effort must be made to improve course content, analysis, delivery of materials and lab discussions.

8 — Fight alienation — education is a human process. We must be concerned with the welfare of the students.

9 — Development of new materials — an emphasis will be made researching and recording new materials to develop a deeper and truer understanding of our history.

10 — Enlargement of the program — a commitment to the development of Ethnic Studies programs in high schools, community colleges and everywhere our people are.

Built on these principles, built on the interests of students and the community, the Ethnic Studies Program can be strong and effectively serve the people of Hawai'i.

**Adopted September 11, 1972
By the Ethnic Studies Program Staff**