

# Letters to the Editor



## More on Hawaiian studies building

### Expand space for vital program

As a Hawaiian studies graduate and former student of Professor R. Kawena Johnson, I was disheartened with her position (Letters, Oct. 5) on the Hawaiian studies proposed building and plans.

When I first started my undergraduate studies at UH-Manoa, I searched for a major that would give me some insights into my culture and heritage. Being Hawaiian at that time was difficult. Other Hawaiians were pursuing fields in business, education, etc. I was always asked, "What are you going to do with a Hawaiian studies degree? Teach? Hotel?"

However, I strongly felt that the Hawaiian studies program would give me the chance to rediscover my roots and later use that knowledge for the betterment of our people in the future.

The Hawaiian studies program needs a place to call its own. Within the shackles of Moore Hall, the program will not be able to expand. I remember times when there wasn't a classroom for students to sit in. Moore Hall is already being used to its capacity.

Without the plans for expansion to the proposed new building, many Hawaiian students as well as others, will become dis-

couraged and turn away from learning the very foundations that keeps these islands Hawaii. The Hawaiian culture cannot survive in this day and age on "the real thing" alone. In order for us to preserve and continue our Hawaiian way of life, we need to have knowledgeable Hawaiian leaders who were educated through the "old style" and "new style."

We presently have money allocated for the building, soon it will be lost, and expectant future Hawaiian leaders will be the ones to suffer for it. Will we be able to successfully get funding again from the state legislature? Have we destroyed an educational facility that would have facilitated the future needs of our Hawaiian youth?

The personality conflicts between our Hawaiian leaders and educators is disturbing to say the least. Many of my generation are tired of the fighting that goes on. Come on! Come to some kind of compromise! Our leaders and educators are the ones responsible for paving the way for the future generations to follow.

Pave the way for our youth to be proud of what they are and why it is not shameful to be a Hawaiian!

— Donald S. Awaeau  
law student

### Maybe it's better to move money

Professor Rubellite Kawena Johnson's letter (Ka Leo, Oct. 5) about the Hawaiian Studies Center and the teaching of Hawaiian culture at UH-Manoa really made me stop and think.

Perhaps the students WOULD be better off if the money now dedicated to this facility could be used instead to improve the quality of education, provide better materials and more and better courses, offer scholarships and, in general, address the problem of how best to give Hawaiian values to interested students.

The result might be less controversy, less politics, less division among the students and faculty, less time wasted on things that have no bearing on education, better use of existing facilities, better relations between the administration and student body, better use of tax dollars ... and more aloha for all.

To quote this imaginative Hawaiian educator, "If the leadership of Hawaiian Studies would concentrate more on the contribution it could make here — if it showed more aloha all around..."

— Keith Haugen  
student