

# proposal may kill program

by VICKI VIOTTI  
managing editor

Ethnic Studies supporters will call on UH President Fujio Matsuda to reject a recommendation to disperse program courses among other departments, Ethnic Studies Director Davianna Alegado said in a Ka Leo interview last Friday.

Alegado blamed "factual errors" in the program report.

Program supporters will march to Matsuda's office Friday following a rally at 12:30 p.m. in the Campus Center courtyard.

Last Wednesday, Vice-Chancellor Geoffrey Ashton released vacationing Chancellor Douglas Yamamura's recommendation that the program's courses be transferred into appropriate academic departments and that the major continue to be offered through the University's liberal studies program.

The recommendation, along with written reactions from the College of Arts and Sciences deans, the Ethnic Studies program and the Manoa faculty senate, will be submitted to Matsuda early December.

Matsuda will then make his recommendation to the Board of Regents for a final decision, Ashton said.

Alegado said the program



DAVIANNA ALEGADO  
ethnic studies director

Among the factual errors were some misclassifications of program faculty with advanced degrees as having only bachelors degrees, she said.

Ashton told Ka Leo last Friday that any factual errors can be pointed out in the program's written recommendation.

Alegado objected that the chancellor's study was based on the original 1970 proposal for the Ethnic Studies program, instead of the 1972 People's Committee report.

A committee of community members

said.

The report quotes the 1970 proposal that "present faculty at the University, whenever possible, will be used." It then points out that the majority of program faculty were hired from outside the University.

Alegado said the 1972 revision emphasizes instead that the program hire more faculty with community experience.

In response, Ashton contends that the 1970 proposal is the official basis of evaluation.

"The original proposal is the one the Board (of Regents) acted upon and, as far as we're concerned, that's the basis for review," he said.

Ashton stressed the fact that the chancellor made his recommendation public this early to give the community a chance to add their input.

Alegado added that, contrary to report findings, the program does foster interaction with other departments, although this interaction could be improved and formalized.

"We don't feel it's necessary to abolish the program in order to rectify our problems," she said.

Alegado does not deny, as the report contends, that the program presents a certain perspective on ethnic issues.

She said the program as a

of its intricate variability. So



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Vol. LV, Issue No. 28 University of Hawaii Mon., Nov. 15, 1976

Other criticisms in the report included:

- curriculum, student composition and enrollment. The report finds that enrollment in courses on individual ethnic groups are comprised largely of that ethnic group,

inhibiting racial interaction.

- grading policy. The report criticizes Ethnic Studies grade distribution of a high number of A's.

Alegado said stricter standards have been enforced since the 1970 proposal.

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