

It's a community issue

Ethnic Studies can serve ALL Hawaii; It must be saved!

In the face of public pressure built by supporters of the Ethnic Studies Program at UH the past two months, the Administration appears to have backed-down from an earlier intention of abolishing the popular program at the Manoa campus.

Since October, the People's Committee to Defend Ethnic Studies, a support group made up of students, faculty and community, has organized rallies, marches to the administration building, a public hearing and press conferences in an effort to stop the threat of discontinuing the Program.

AS A RESULT, hundreds of letters of support and resolutions from various ethnic communities and individuals have been received by the Chancellor's office and UH President Fujio Matsuda supporting Ethnic Studies.

But, despite this tremendous show of support from the community, Vice Chancellor Geoffrey Ashton announced the chancellor's recommendation of Nov. 10 to abolish the Program by dispersing its courses into another department of the University.

The Nov. 10 Ashton Report sparked wide interest among people who were aware of the Ethnic Studies issue. Immediately, indignant students, faculty and community supporters staged a rally. On Nov. 19 they marched in pouring

to believe the Ashton Report was final. Ashton even called for a press conference to announce his decision.

The Administration originally hoped to use Ashton's report as the basis for abolishing ES. Once exposed as being full of inaccuracies and distortions, however, they were forced to rescind it. A new review by the Faculty Senate has been scheduled for January.

SUPPORTERS hail this as a significant victory and an important step towards making the Ethnic Studies Program permanent. Although the issue is not settled, since the review process will probably not end until April 1976 supporters are confident the faculty review

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team will reiterate their previous stand: that the program is academically sound and should be made a permanent part of the university.

The Filipino community should know about the Ethnic Studies Program. Ethnic Studies is an expression of the nation-wide Civil Rights movement of the mid-1960's and early 1970's for equality and freedom. Black people in America struggled for the right to vote, for the right to attend decent schools—even for the

needs of *all* people. Their demand for ethnic studies programs was a demand for their democratic rights as minorities.

When the Ethnic Studies Program was established at UH, it took on this same challenge. Curriculum and resource materials were developed that spoke to the needs of the multi-ethnic community—the Native Hawaiians and immigrant groups, including Filipinos, who built Hawaii—to learn about their history and heritage.

Today there are 14 courses taught in the Ethnic Studies Program:

Japanese in Hawaii (ES 200), Chinese in Hawaii (201), Filipinos in Hawaii (202), Blacks in Hawaii (203), Caucasians in Hawaii (205), the Hawaiians (221).

SEVERAL OTHERS are of broader interest to the multi-ethnic UH student body.

It is important that the Filipino community supports the demand that it be permanent. The issue of permanency for ES is a community issue. What happens to ES concerns the community because the people of Hawaii fought for the program and helped build it since 1972. Ethnic Studies teaches the history and experience of ethnic groups in Hawaii; it promotes pride and appreciation of ethnic heritage.

In this respect it is a political struggle. The outcome of it will depend on *your* support. What