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Permit delay for Hawaiian studies center protested

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The director of the University of Hawaii Center for Hawaiian Studies blasted Gov. John Waihee yesterday for delayed construction of a Hawaiian studies building, charging he is preventing construction as a form of retaliation.

At a protest in front of Washington Place, center director Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa said the Office of State Planning has refused to issue the final permit allowing construction of the UH building.

Kame'eleihiwa said the governor was getting back at the center for having denounced what she calls "his abuse of Hawaiian trust lands and assets" and for "his co-optation of the sovereignty movement with his Sovereignty Advisory Commission," among other things.

At least 90 Hawaiian studies center backers lined the area in front of the governor's mansion on Beretania Street demanding Waihee and his administration get the center back on track.

On July 2, the state Coastal Zone Management program, overseen by the state planning office, denied a permit for the building, thereby halting construction of the controversial project.

State planning director Harold Masumoto cited the location of the project, which borders the Kanewai Cul-

Director Daryl Takata talks to the sign-waving Hawaiian Studies Center demonstrators gathered outside Washington Place. See his report.

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