
Introduction

Programs, I contend, can and do share a ritualistic commonality with the humans that create them and how better to provide proof of my contention than to accept the ritualistic responsibility this lovely first Saturday of April to welcome you here and to help start the day's events. As co-sponsor with the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council and the Pacific Islands Studies Program of the University of Hawaii, we of the Hawaiian Studies Program of the University of Hawaii at Manoa are privileged to have shared in the responsibility of planning and presenting this Sixth Annual Pacific Islands Studies Conference, the theme of which is "Hawaii in the Contemporary Pacific."

Of course, another reason for our participation is that it gives you the opportunity to help us commemorate the first anniversary of the Hawaiian Studies Program as a degree granting program in the College of Arts and Sciences. I will say that the program is coming along well.

I am particularly delighted with the theme of this conference because, in my opinion, Hawaii stands tall and proudly in the contemporary Pacific in almost any cultural-social-economic scenario one may wish to discuss when evaluating Pacific Island communities today. I am confident this will become obvious to you as our distinguished speakers make their presentations.

It is my sincere hope that as more Pacific Island communities achieve self-governing status and become independent nations they will look to Hawaii for guidance and assistance in meeting the problems of growth and development they will be faced with. In doing so they may be forecautioned of the errors we made and benefit by the experiences which helped us in Hawaii move on to a better life.

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