

# Ethnic Studies Should Be Saved

There has been a move by the administration of the University of Hawaii to eliminate the Ethnic Studies Program which was incorporated into the school's curriculum some five years ago.

This proposed plan to eradicate one of the encouraging factors in the development of the youth in the educational processes for higher learning, has spawned doubts not only among the students but also minority civic groups into the real intentions of university officials in honestly pursuing the objectives of that institution.

**THE PLANNED ELIMINATION** of the Program has therefore stirred the hornet's nest.

The UH administration's unpopular proposal has also brought to light the future of similar projects affecting the right of minorities in the State.

It cannot be underestimated, judging from the enthusiasm of students in the arts and sciences, the Ethnic Studies Program has brought forth positive results. Thousands of students presently enrolled and those who have finished any of the Program's twelve courses offered, have expressed the tremendous benefits derived from them.

**STUDENTS AND ALUMNI** of Japanese, Filipino, Caucasian, Samoan and Hawaiian extractions are unanimous of their encompassing knowledge of their cultural and social heritage after undergoing the brief but rewarding course.

The Program, which emanated from the UH Evaluation Committee before it became part and parcel of the school's curriculum, has carried the official stamp of approval the past five years and it seems the student population and concerned citizenry are now wary of its fate, considering that some members of the school's administration have suddenly become "doubting Thomases" and discriminating.

**IT MAY BE** gainsaid that the Program has contributed much to unite the multi-ethnic studentry and in promoting cooperation among themselves in whatever endeavor or project to enhance interest for wider pursuit of higher learning. It has also inculcated that feeling of pride and belonging of each nationality to his or her own ethnic background.

It is in this regard that Hawaii is a unique State of the Union. Let's keep it beautiful that way.

Pacific Courteser Oct 26 - Nov 28, 1976

Robert M. ...  
ETHNIC STUDIES ...  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII