

naming proposal called fool's gold

by DAVID WAITE
city editor

Manoa campus administrators are "hustling up fool's gold type policies" for names of campus buildings, a spokesman for the coalition to Rename Porteus Hall said at a chancellor's forum.

The forum was held Thursday to receive student input in the proposed naming policy.

The policy is an "attempt to delude everyone into thinking there will be actual student input, when in essence there won't," Alan Nakasone, coalition spokesman, said.

NAKASONE read the accusations from a prepared statement by the coalition.

The coalition was formed last year to protest the naming of the social sciences building after the late Stanley David Porteus. The coalition contended that Porteus, a professor emeritus in psychology at the UH, was a racist.

The coalition received 2,000 signatures in a petition to rename Porteus Hall. The petition, however, was ignored by the Board of Regents in April, when the board affirmed its decision to name the social sciences building after Porteus.

Nakasone claimed the new naming policy was a "tactical move to deceive the public."

NAKASONE'S charges came after a half-hour discussion by administrators on the proposed policy.

Howard P. McKaughn, chairman of the committee responsible for drafting the new policy, had finished reviewing the policy when the charges were made.

Nakasone also charges that student input was limited to recommending names, and that final decision-making power "lies exclusively with the politically tainted BOR."

After listening to the charges,

McKaughn pointed out that a grad student and a representative of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii helped draft the new policy.

Chancellor Douglas Yamamura asked Nakasone for a copy of the prepared statement.

When asked whether a new naming policy would have been implemented if the Porteus Hall issue had not arisen, Yamamura said the possibility had been discussed before the Porteus controversy.

Yamamura said several persons suggested a revision of the policy as no students were included in former naming committees.

At one point in the meeting, Yamamura indicated he was not satisfied with the regents action on Porteus Hall.

REP. NEIL Abercrombie (D-13th) said he thought the new policy was too restrictive and allowed no course of action for objections.

"As far as I'm concerned, that building (Porteus Hall) hasn't been named yet," Abercrombie said.

"I still call that building 'Social Sciences Complex,'" Yamamura replied.

Several forum participants also objected to the proposed policy guidelines, which call for functional names for new buildings. Under the proposed policy, a building will be named for an individual only under "unusual circumstances."

The crowd applauded when one participant recommended that all building names be dropped and new names adopted.

The participant said that because of "washing" the vast majority of campus buildings have been named for "white" males. He recommended that Hawaiian names be chosen.