

Gerad Akaka
Terry Amona
Rennie Mau

ETHNIC STUDIES PROJECT: A BRIEF SUMMARY

Note: This written report is going to be very brief. We recieved two different scoops from two different lab teachers. One said we need not hand anything in since we presented our report orally in class. But another TA said to write something brief and hand it in. Here it is.

THE CONDOMINIUM PROJECT OF THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF UCC

Gathering the materials and information on this project was a difficult one. Much has been kept away from the general public. Much time was spent in just getting the materials, so it was a matter of obtaining and deciphering out the important things.

Our report is on the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ who plans to build with AMFAC, two 35 story condominiums in Nuuanu Valley. However, we three and people in the church and community are very much against the project.

HCUCC is made up of 119 churches in the State of Hawaii. It is the group out of which the first Missionaries in 1820 came. HCUCC is noted to be a Major Land Owner. One of things which we looked into is the "idea" that the Missionaries stole the land from the Hawaiians. However, according to church and Governmental records it shows that the Missionaries were given land because many were dearly and greatly loved by the Hawaiians.

One of the reasons for the Project is that the HCUCC needs \$400,000 a year for its on-going programs. Much of the revenue expected off the Condo Project could off-set many of its bills. We three challenged this as we encountered some in the Board of Trustees; our basic concern is to use all our lands in alternative means. For instance, perhaps leasing land to farmers. . .which would provide jobs and revenue, too.

But they showed us how they are legally bound to a system.

Not a Christian system, but a system of laws designed by the Government. Less than $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the land held by the Conference is actually theirs to be used as they please. Much of this land is already being used. The other $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the lands are mainly held in Trust or Leases. In other words, much of the land is specified according to the Wills and/or Contracts for certain purposes, therefore the Board of Trustee's can't just do anything with it - they are legally liable. BUT we feel that there are ways around them!

It would be good to note here that much of these lands are in conservation and agricultural zones. Some of the lands are in Volcano cone parts. But we feel that perhaps some of the agricultural land should be put into farm production.

The Project for which we are concerned about will be located at the corner of Nuuanu Avenue and Judd Street. The HCUC people putting up this condo here consider themselves to be making a good investment. However before they can go ahead with the Project they must have an Environmental Impact Statement on the Project. The EIS has just been recieved and it shows favoritism for the Projects go ahead.

At this stage of the game the people opposing it are just getting organized. We three were a little ahead of the game. We do not have facts about the Community Struggle, but we feel we have gone into some of the ground work necessary. This whole Project is in its Pioneer Stage. The Community and Church people are just getting informed and involved. However, we have discovered that the type of Community, its ethnicity and standard of living affects the amount of zest for involvement. For instance, the Nuuanu Community people are mainly Middle or Upper Class

Japanese and Chinese. This Project doesn't necessarily affect their lives as those whom we studied in class being evicted.

We three look very pessimistically at the outcome of the Project. It seems that Church Politics and Big Business are too involved. What is really interesting is that out of the 119 churches only a few want and do support the HCUCC Programs. Most of the others do not trust the Conference. But the ironic thing is that this is one of the reasons why the HCUCC has to build a Condo to make money.

Part of our Project was taking a look at how Big Business is connected with the Church. However, it was difficult because of time limits. There demands much research, more than one semester. But, we do acknowledge that some of the Big Wheels sit on the HCUCC Board of Trustees.

It is important to note that HCUCC is not the Churches. Some UCC Churches theology are diametrically different than the Conference. The future will reveal the outcome and involvement. Enclosed are some of the data collected.