

Call-up delay to be asked for students

President Thomas H. Hamilton of the University of Hawaii said in a statement yesterday that the University will try to secure deferments until the end of the spring semester for students affected by the federalization of National Guard and Army Reserve Units.

Hamilton said the government action will obviously affect some students at the University, but "it is not clear precisely what the situation is."

"We are trying to discover whether there is the authority in Washington to secure deferments to allow the students to finish this semester's work," he said.

Hamilton said he had asked Maj. Gen. Benjamin J. Webster, State adjutant general of the Hawaii National Guard, to defer the students until June 1, but Webster said he does not have the authority.

If the University is not able to get deferments for the students, Hamilton said he will "urge the faculty to work with the students affected to try to finish the semester's work by May 12."

Otherwise, he said, he will recommend that the students be given a "pass-fail" or incomplete grade and a full refund for courses they are unable to complete.

The University president said the executive committee of the Faculty Senate agreed with his recommendations.

He suggested that students affected by the National Guard call check with their college deans.



ANTI-DRAFT PROTEST—Four unidentified University of Hawaii students participated in an alleged draft card burning demonstration. The student at right with the dark glasses said he is 4-F, and safe, but took part anyway. The Micronesian student (center) burned what he claimed were his visa papers in sympathy.—Photo by Terry Luke.

Students denounce draft, burn cards

By Gregg Kakesako
Star-Bulletin Writer

A dozen University of Hawaii students burned what they claimed were their Selective Service draft cards yesterday in protest against the draft and the Vietnam war.

The card burning incident came at a two-hour meeting called by the Students for a Democratic Society to discuss methods of attacking

the racial problems.

But the meeting almost immediately became concerned with the draft — apparently a subject forced into the rally after yesterday's announcement that the Hawaii National Guard and reservists were being activated next month.

Of the 12 students, four told the audience of 200 that they were ineligible for the draft. But they claimed they were burning their draft cards because they were sick of the war.

Bill Smith, one of the four, and also SDS president, said he was not eligible because of his 1-0 rating as a conscientious objector.

He was the first to light a card which he claimed was a Selective Service card.

Emotional speech

Their actions were triggered by a speech given by Richard M. Tanimura, a specialist 4 in the Hawaii National Guard's HHC 29th Brigade, who told the students he would actively oppose yesterday's call-up.

Tanimura, a senior in electrical engineering, said, "The time has come for me personally to take a stand as a member of the National Guard."

"I find myself compelled to oppose any participation of any units of the armed forces of the United States either in Vietnam or in quelling racial disorder on the Mainland."

"The racial problem is not a Negro problem. It is a white problem. The white race created it, and now they will use force to alleviate it—that is by destroying the Negro race."

"I do not know what the solution to the problem is, but if I am asked to suppress any people of any color, I cannot in good conscience reply I will."

The students rose to applaud Tanimura's statement as he sat quietly on stage wiping the tears from his eyes.

At this point George Sarant demanded from the audience, "What are you going

to do? It's up to you. Are you going to let Richard be dragged off to jail or are you going to fight?"

"The time has long since gone when you can sit with your 2-S (student) rating and say, I don't have to worry, I'm safe. I'm going to school," Smith said.

"The time is now, you must decide," Smith said and then paused for a few seconds.

"If he (Richard) goes to jail, I'm going with him because that's where my place is."

Smith then let another student, John Witeck, speak, and then lit what he said was his draft card with a cigarette lighter and tossed it into an ash tray.

"I was pretty safe with my 1-0 rating, but that rating in reality is only letting someone else kill in my place," he said.

Another lanky Caucasian student with a black mourning arm band rushed to the stage and threw what he said was his draft card into the ash tray.

He did not identify himself but yelled into the microphone, "I've wanted to do that for a long time. That's nothing. That's a joke."

Witeck, who early had said he would not burn his draft card but was sending it back to his board on the Mainland, then reversed his decision and set fire to what he claimed was his selective service card.

"I don't want to kill black men, yellow men — I don't want to kill any men," he said.

More burn cards

Then a handful of students filed on stage, delivered a few lines, and added what they identified as draft cards to the flames.

Only one student, Bradley Hara, raised a dissenting voice to all the antiwar and antidraft speeches.

He questioned the students' responsibility to society, and challenged them to show him the means and prove that it was "just not an intellectual and ineffective assembly."