



Theodore (Ted) M. Kawamura

October 20, 1934 - June 13, 2020

Theodore (Ted) M. Kawamura, “Boss”, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at his home in Lahaina. Yaeko, his wife of 62 years, was at his side. He was 86 years old. Ted was born in Lahaina in 1934, the second child of Masato and Chiyome Kawamura. He grew up in Kula. After two years at Maui High School, he attended Lahainaluna High School as a boarder and graduated in 1953. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for four years. After the Marines, he married Yaeko and spent two years with the DLNR Forestry. He then took advantage of the GI bill to attend Colorado State University and was able to graduate in a little over three years in 1962. He returned to Maui to teach at Lahainaluna High School. Initially he taught mathematics, general business and agriculture; eventually he taught agriculture full time. “Boss” loved Lahainaluna and teaching. Lahainaluna’s Ag. Department did not have a garden or greenhouse when he arrived, though that would quickly change. “Boss” constantly innovated with his ag. program throughout the years, introducing his students to subjects like hydroponics and aquaculture, rescuing horses and subsequently incorporating them into an equestrian program, as well as holding workshops for his peers where they would exchange ideas and support. His ag. program also sold student-raised produce at the local markets; “Lahainaluna corn” was always popular and quick to sell out. His ag. program became well respected. He was recognized numerous times; some of the highlights were Maui District Teacher of the Year (1975), NVATA Outstanding Teacher of Vocational Education (1984, national), Agri-science Teacher of the Year (1986, national), State

Distinguished Service Award (1988) and Outstanding Service to Vocational Education Award

(1989).

While he was proud of his awards, he took most pleasure from his students' successes.

He

always saw the potential in his students and took pride in those occasions when he was able to

help his students achieve a better future than they might have imagined for themselves.

In retirement, Ted was not idle. He built a greenhouse in his backyard and raised honohono

orchids, desert roses, and ohia, amongst other things. He was always willing to share his plants

with friends and family and donated many of his plants to local churches for their bazaars.

He

also shared his time and knowhow with the Lahainaluna Learning Center. Ted and Yaeko traveled all around the world, and especially enjoyed Japan.

Ted knew the best places to dive on Maui, day or night. He had a soft spot for animals and his

three dog "children", Rusty, Puccini and Keiko, were his constant companions in later life.

He

always looked forward to hunting with his friends on Lanai, even when he couldn't hunt.

He was

passionate about food and knew exactly what he liked. He was a lifelong fan of Lahainaluna

(he served as a JV coach) and UH football. He enjoyed fishing in Alaska with Yaeko.

He loved his family and most of all, he loved Yaeko.

Ted is survived by his wife, Yaeko (Yamamoto); sister, Paula Ortego; his three children, Mark

(Audrey) Kawamura, Robert (Lisa) Kawamura and Lynn (Scott) Frake; his three grandchildren,

Jenna Kawamura, Kayla (Eric) Kawamura-Chan, and Dylan Frake.

A private memorial service will be held at the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission on Saturday, July 11,

2020.

Events

JUL Private Services

11

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission

551 Wainee Street, Lahaina, HI, US, 96767

Comments



“ Ted was a lovely person and we are so grateful to have been able to spend time with him. He had a big smile, an even bigger heart as well as a great sense of humor and a wonderful work ethic. He had that little spark in his eyes when he would show us a lovely native plant he had grown from seed, one that we knew was very difficult to grow, he loved the challenge. We learned so much from him. His legacy will live on through all the great work he did. He will be missed many.

Our deepest condolences to the Kawamura family.

Mia and Brock Charleston - July 24, 2020 at 10:19 PM



“ Aloha e Kawamura Family,
Thinking of you today as you celebrate the life of Mr. Kawamura.

I wanted to inform you that UHMaui College is playing his Preserving Our Recollections interview in memoriam on Channel 354 as follows:

July 11, 2020 to August 3, 2020 (Week-ends):

Ted Kawamura
Sat & Sun - 11:00pm
Sun & Mon - 3:00am

Once again, our aloha and sympathy to your `ohana.

Walette Pellegrino
446-5988

WGPellegrino - July 11, 2020 at 05:27 PM



“ Kawamura Family,

I can't say much but Ted made me earn my success in High School and later after serving in the Air Force he gave the Key that opened a 42 year career for me. Ted was a mentor, teacher and visionary to all his students. May his legacy carry on with the new Scholarship in his name for students at Lahainaluna who seek a degree in Agriculture and Horticulture.

Craig Hottmann
Class of 1965 Boarder

Craig Hottmann - July 11, 2020 at 02:04 AM



“ Aloha e Kawamura `Ohana,

Sending deepest sympathy and aloha to all of you on Mr. Kawamura's passing. May the special memories you share give you comfort and solace at this time.

It was a privilege to interview Mr. Kawamura for the UH Maui College Preserving Our Recollections program. Although I was familiar with Mr. Kawamura from his years teaching at Lahainaluna where he literally "grew" the ag program, I did not realize what an interesting and varied life he had. So when Darrell Oishi asked me to interview him, I looked forward to it. Mr. Kawamura was such an accomplished person who dearly loved his family and his Lahaina community. Teachers like him make such a difference in young people's lives. He has truly left a legacy of service. Mahalo nui loa, Mr. Kawamura.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Walette Garcia Pellegrino

WGPellegrino - July 08, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ Mr. Kawamura was a strong mentor of mine as well as to many agricultural students he had throughout the years. He molded my life throughout my high school years and beyond. I owe so much to him. My success throughout my agricultural career was the focus he taught me to persevere. It seemed like an omen to me when I saw he and Mrs. Kawamura at the Kahului Safeway a few weeks before his passing. I am glad I got to speak with him. Because I did not see him for a while, meeting him during this time of turmoil made me think of this omen. I will miss him forever.....a truly great and sincere person. Our sincere sympathy to the Kawamura family.

Neal Fujiwara - July 06, 2020 at 02:58 PM