



# Kenneth Tanaka

MAY 9, 1957 - AUG 24, 2024



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MAUI MEMORIAL PARK  
NAKAMURA MORTUARY  
CEMETERY, CREMATION & FUNERAL

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



# Kenneth Tanaka

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**K**en is home

Early Saturday morning, August 24, 2024, our beloved Ken went to be with his Lord Jesus. Though we weren't prepared for the suddenness of his passing, God was, and he passed surrounded by family.

Kenneth Rikio Tanaka, (Pastor Ken Tanaka), 67, was born on May 9, 1957 to Earl I. and Sayono T. Tanaka. He graduated from Baldwin High School and received a degree in electronics from Honolulu Community College, which led to his career as an audio technician and business partner in Maui Audio Center. Ken later received his theology degree from International Bible College. His tenure as youth leader, associate pastor and co-pastor of Kahului Union Church extended several decades. Ken also served on the Board of Doris Todd Christian Academy for many years.

His skill and talent as an audio technician led him to associations with many renowned local and mainland artists. He was a "MacGyver" who could fix or fashion whatever was needed, a behind the scenes go-to guy for the unending tasks that kept things running. On his days off, you would find him at the church, laboring on something that just had to get done. Most of all, he was a faithful servant of God and lived his life in service to others. He taught, encouraged, comforted, and walked side by side with all who he encountered, without judgment, but always with love and compassion. He was Uncle Pastor Ken to the KUC Preschool where his weekly chapel sessions were eagerly anticipated for many years, and to the Youth Ministry groups he helped shepherd through their difficult formative years. He was always on call working for the congregation and the local community. His ministry outreach was wherever he was at, including Roselani Place, Southern Baptist conventions, mission trips to Mexico, New Mexico & Japan, and even Fremont Street in Las Vegas!

Ken married his cherished wife, Annette, in 1997. Hand in hand, they served the Lord together and enjoyed travelling domestically and abroad. Ken retired from Kahului Union Church on August 1, 2024.



## Obituary

**Kenneth Tanaka**

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Ken is survived by Annette, brother Roy (Mary), sister Charlene (Dennis) Doi, and nieces & nephews.

Our family has been blessed by all who surrounded us with love and support through prayers, fellowship, and sustenance. We are grateful to the Maui Memorial Medical Center ER and ICU teams, and Hospice Maui for their kindness and compassion in caring for Ken and our families.

A celebration of Ken's life will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at Kahului Union Church. Visitation begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by service at 10:00 a.m.

The family requests no flowers. In lieu of koden, contributions may be made to Hospice Maui.




# Events

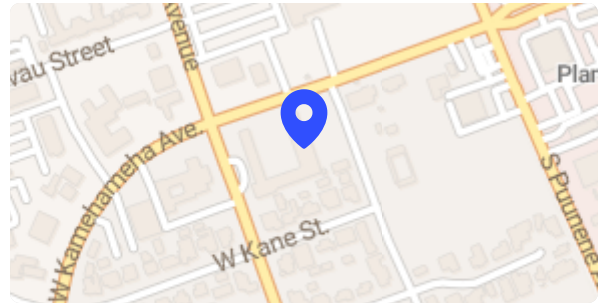
**Kenneth Tanaka**  
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## Celebration Of Life

 **Saturday**, October 12, 2024

 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM HST

 **Kahului Union Church**  
101 West Kamehameha Ave., Kahului HI 96732





# Tribute Wall

**Kenneth Tanaka**  
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**Brian Takaki** lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.



I was deeply saddened to hear of Kenneth's passing. From being a classmate at Kahului School, to taking Driver's Ed classes together at BHS, and finally his roommate while attending HCC till graduation. Despite the years and thousands of miles apart, Kenneth always had a special place in my heart. While visiting Maui in June 2024, I saw Kenneth twice, and it gave me comfort just sharing a few words with him. He will be missed by all who knew him. My deepest condolences to Annette and family. Aloha Oe My Friend, Until We Meet Again. Brian Takaki

October 17 at 10:50 AM



**Phyllis J White** posted:

Aloha, Ken, Ken was so kind and benevolent. He touched so many people's lives. Ken was special and he is missed. My deepest condolences to Ken's family.

October 12 at 12:02 PM



**Joyce Afalla** posted:

A man of God, a neighbor who shared his tasty avocados , a daily Wailuku walker, unselfish aid to everyone, sincere listener, influencer of many youth workers in many churches and one who leaves a big footprint on Maui. He is absent from the body, present with the Lord !Condolences to Annette and family. Joyce Afalla

October 11 at 8:44 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kenneth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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