



## **Gary Kazuo Sakihara Memorial Scholarship October 21, 1949-November 17, 2003**

Gary Kazuo Sakihara was born on October 21, 1949 and lived first on a farm on the UH-Manoa campus where his father was a gardener. Later, his family moved to their East Manoa Road home where he lived his entire life. Gary attended Mary Knoll Elementary School and St. Louis High School where he was noted for his academic and athletic abilities on the state championship football team. He attended Pacific University his freshman year on a football scholarship, and then returned to Hawaii to complete his Bachelor's degree in Sociology at UH in 1971.

He began graduate studies in Sociology, and worked as a Teaching Assistant and Lecturer. He also worked on projects with the UHM Survey Research Office and started a small private research firm with two other Sociology graduate students, David Takeuchi and Mel Sakurai.

Gary assisted many faculty and students with their statistical analyses, as he quickly learned mainframe, and then personal computer programming and analysis. His knowledge and skills in these areas preceded many, as he went on to thrive in school and business through his knowledge of complex quantitative analyses and large computerized datasets. He also enjoyed conducting qualitative research which benefited local social service and educational organizations.

Gary left UH prior to completion of his PhD to work full-time at SMS Research, a local survey research firm, in 1978 where he soon led the public sector research division. In 1981, Gary went to work for Hawaiian Telephone in their market research office and in his 19 years at what became GTE and later Verizon, he did market research, market planning, and forecasting. While Gary regularly traveled to the Dallas and Seattle area offices where his groups were based, he worked mostly from the Honolulu office. He was highly regarded for analysis of nationwide datasets, and his forecasts directed the company to market-based decisions. Gary retired from his job at Verizon in late 2000.

Gary continued to help friends with their statistical analysis in order to complete their PhD dissertations and many attest that they owe their graduation to his assistance. In 2001, another UH Sociology graduate, Dr. David Swanson, hired Gary to teach statistics at the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration, Mikkeli, Finland. He underwent cancer treatment on and off for the next two years and enjoyed time at home in Manoa, visiting with friends, many from his college years at UH. Gary loved socializing with friends, "playing" on the computer, cooking and entertaining at home, watching TV and football, listening to good music, and attending movies, arts and cultural events. Gary passed away on November 17, 2003 at the age of 54. His mother, three sisters and their families live in Manoa, Kailua and McCully.

***In remembrance of Gary Sakihara, a Memorial Scholarship has been established with the University of Hawaii Foundation. Contributions to that scholarship can be made on the attached form indicating the Gary Sakihara Memorial Scholarship as the place for your donation***