

Speaker's Biography

Mr. Ed Kawasaki was born in 1929 in Honolulu. Ed actively served on the board of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. For most of his adult life, Ed has been an active member of the Japanese American community in Portland and a leader of several Japanese American organizations. Ed is still active in Japan America Society of Oregon where he was the President and Chairman. Ed is a long-standing member of the board of the Japanese Ancestral Society, which owns the Japanese Cemetery in Portland. Ed has served on the boards of the Portland Japanese Garden Society, the International Association of Japanese Gardens, Portland State University Foundation, and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the Japanese American Historical Plaza benefactor. Ed's volunteer and charitable commitments span dozens of organizations and ¾ of a century. Ed is one of Portland's most iconic Japanese American citizens and a respected leader within the Japanese American community.

Ed spent his professional life in commercial banking, rising to an executive position. Ed served his country in the US Army, honorably discharged at the rank of captain. Ed received his bachelors degree at the University of Hawaii and at Yamaguchi Economic College in Japan.

Ed was presented by his imperial highness, the Emperor of Japan, the Fourth Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Ray with Rosette in Tokyo in 1999.

The Oregon Region and Portland Shokookai are truly fortunate to have Ed Kawasaki as our lead off speaker for our program series about the Japanese American experience in Portland.