



Military  
Intelligence  
Service  
Veterans  
Education  
Society of  
Hawaii

# MIS VETERANS

DECEMBER 2023  
Vol. 29, No. 4

[misveteranshawaii.com](http://misveteranshawaii.com)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mahalo to everyone who attended our November 12th bonenkai at Natsunoya Tea House. It was great to see you and your families.



### MIS at a Crossroads

In my remarks at the gathering, I called for volunteers to serve as officers for our group.

Like other local nisei veterans groups, the MIS Veterans Society is facing the challenge of declining membership among veterans and descendants, along with a general lack of interest from the public. Without this involvement, the important legacy of our fathers and their brethren will be unappreciated and then forgotten.

Given these circumstances, we have two tasks before us. The first is electing the officers and directors who will serve this coming year. The second is charting a course for our organization for the next five years or so.

## UPCOMING Shinnenkai 2024

Sunday  
Jan. 28  
Natsunoya  
Tea House

SEE INSIDE TO  
MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATIONS  
NOW.  
HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!

## Elections We would welcome members who are interested in serving.

The election will take place at the shinnenkai this January.

Here is the slate of officers and directors nominated to serve for the term that begins in January 2024 and ends at our 2025 shinnenkai.

President	open (Karen Kikukawa if no replacement found)
Vice President	open
Treasurer	Sherman Takao
Secretary	open (or duties rotating among directors)
Directors	Lawrence Enomoto Keith Matsumoto Mark Matsunaga Carolyn Morinishi Wilbert Toda

*Continues on page 2.*

## Looking Back: 2013 MIS Officers and Board Members

Left to right: Glen Arakaki, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ted Tsukiyama, Gale Wilson, George Arine, Lawrence Enomoto, David Sakai, Herbert Yanamura, Mark Matsunaga, and Harry Kawaoka. Not pictured: Karen Kikukawa, Tammy Kubo, James Moy, and Gregg Hirata.



### Follow Us!

Receive news and updates about the MIS Veterans' events and activities.

FACEBOOK:  
Military Intelligence  
Service-MIS Veterans  
Hawaii

INSTAGRAM:  
[misveteranshawaii](http://misveteranshawaii)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

### Future Directions

We, meaning our officers and board of directors, are evaluating a proposed strategic plan that would chart the direction and goals of our organization for the next several years. Here are some possible directions we can take:

- **Decide on a direction and duration.** Depending on how long the membership wants the Society to function, the MIS Society can: (a) attempt to organize more group activities in order to build membership, (b) continue with the existing number of activities, or (c) scale back further so the Society becomes a semi-active entity.
- **Evaluate organizational status.** Depending on the selected course of action, the board should evaluate the by-laws, articles of incorporation, and tax status and determine what changes are necessary.
- **Continue member and public outreach.** As long as the Society is functioning and collecting dues, it is obligated to inform members and external constituencies through the newsletter, website, publications, and participation in exhibits, events, and other projects that celebrate the accomplishments of the MIS veterans.
- **Designate a Society representative.** Whatever the Society's status, we should have a designated member(s) to continue to represent the MIS at annual rites where MIS should be visible.
- **Designate a contact and process for general inquiries and research.** As long as we have an active MIS website, we must establish a formal process to respond to questions and requests for research.
- **Seek a permanent partner and repository.** Preserving the legacy of the MIS nisei veterans over the long term will require our partnership with entities with more financial resources and permanent standing than the Society or any of the local veterans groups.

- **Explore permanent ties with local veterans organizations.** The MIS Society should assess its place in relation to other local nisei veterans or legacy groups and explore opportunities for collaboration or consolidation, if desired and feasible.
- **Explore ties with Japanese American entities on the mainland.** The Society could pursue collaborations with mainland-centric organizations with similar goals, such as the Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Veterans Association, Nisei Veterans Network, National Japanese American Historical Society, or Densho.
- **Seek partnerships with military-centric groups on the mainland or the Japanese government.**
- **Explore a museum presence.** The Society can explore carving out a permanent presence or exhibit at the Army Museum of Hawaii or attempt outreach to mainland museums.
- **Fund the University of Hawaii scholarship.** The Society can also perpetuate the veterans' legacy by supplementing the Makiki Japanese Language School/MIS Veterans scholarship endowment at the UH.

These are merely suggested directions. We have not made any final decisions on our plans. However, we expect that the course(s) we take will depend on the interest expressed among our members and the level of your involvement in our activities.

We need to determine the course of our organization and plan to explore our future in more detail with you at the shinnenkai, so please plan to attend.

### Shinnenkai 2024

Mark your calendar: Shinnenkai, Sunday, January 28, Natsunoya Tea House.

Aloha,  
Karen Kikukawa  
President

### MIS Veterans Honored at Maunalani

The Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center held its annual Veterans Day ceremony to honor the military veterans who are living or working at the center.

Some 31 veterans were recognized for their service to the nation. Among them were two MIS veterans: Robert Sato (left) and Harold Kamoto (right). At center is MIS Veterans vice president Bev Ramsey.

Kamoto, of Honolulu, was with the MIS from 1945 to 1950, serving in Tokyo and Yokohama. He later worked as a civilian for the U.S. Air Force and Navy and then U.S. Customs. Sato, also from Honolulu, was with the MIS in Minnesota and Japan. He was an interpreter assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division. He later worked for the Army at Fort Shafter.





# SHINNENKAI FUTURE OF THE MIS

**Declining membership among veterans and descendants means the MIS Veterans is having a difficult time sustaining our activities. This is a dilemma faced by other local veterans groups as well.**

The MIS board of directors remains steadfast in our commitment to preserving and perpetuating the legacy of the MIS veterans. We continue to represent the MIS at veterans ceremonies, host a website, communicate our work to the membership, organize events, and collaborate with other local nisei veterans groups. But given the challenges we're facing, we're considering a number of changes to our organization. For example, we could become a less-structured organization, as opposed to the non-profit corporate entity we are now. This would afford us more flexibility in our governance and remove some of the restrictions required by tax regulations and corporate mandates. We are also evaluating our current activities for possible restructuring.

These and other ideas will be explored and discussed at our shinnenkai. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you on January 28.



Mail form & payment to:  
MIS Veterans Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3021  
Honolulu, HI 96802

Make checks payable to:  
MIS Veterans  
Submit by:  
Friday, January 19

Inquiries:  
mismveteranshawaii@gmail.com



**MIS Veterans Hawaii's  
SHINNENKAI 2024**

**YES, COUNT ME IN!**

**Sunday, January 28**

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Natsunoya Tea House**

**1935 Makanani Drive**

**(Alewa Heights)**

**Valet parking from 10:30 a.m.**

**RSVP DEADLINE:**

**JANUARY 19**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**COST:**

MIS Veterans / MIS Widows—FREE (must be MIS club members in good standing)

All Others \$35 per person

Valet parking fee/tip not included

Number Attending

Total Cost

\_\_\_\_\_ X FREE

\$ -- 0 --

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 per person

\$ \_\_\_\_\_





M.I.S. VETERANS HAWAII  
P.O. BOX 3021  
HONOLULU, HI 96802

## MIS Mourns Loss of Board Members

The MIS Veterans Society recently lost two long-time board members: Yoshinobu Oshiro and Herbert Matsumoto.



**Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro** served as a board member for many years, as well as with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 110. Yoshinobu, who was born in Ewa, served with the MIS's 441st Counterintelligence Corps during the occupation of Japan. Following the war, he attended the University of Hawaii. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He published works documenting the history of the MIS. Yoshinobu collaborated with Lorraine Ward and Katherine Erwin to publish *Reflections of Honor: The Untold Story of a Nisei Spy*, a biography of Arthur Komori. He also edited *The Pacific War of the Nisei in Hawaii*, written by Yuki Kikuchi of Japan and translated into English by Yoko Hayashi Horiuchi. He earned a doctorate in education from Utah State University and was a principal at Iroquois Point, Ewa Beach, and Nimitz elementary schools. He was active with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and received the group's Legacy Award in 2016.



**Herbert Matsumoto** was born in Pepekeo on Hawaii Island, and graduated from McKinley High School and the University of Hawaii. During the war, he served with the MIS in the 6205th Special Interpreters Detachment, first at Schofield Barracks and then in Okinawa from 1945 to 1947. Following his return to the islands, Herbert became a teacher in the public schools. He retired from Aliamanu Elementary School. He was active with the MIS and Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as the Ryukyu Interpreters Club.

TOP: Oshiro interviewed on Hawaii News Now: <<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/23936089/reflections-of-honor-the-untold-story-of-a-nisei-spy/>>. BOTTOM: Matsumoto interviewed by Oshiro: <<https://www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.30922/>>