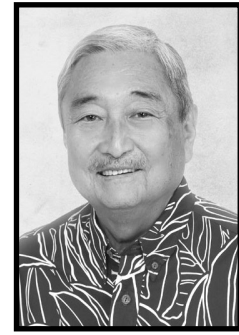


Honoring
The Late Barry K. Taniguchi
Distinguished Alumnus



Born in Hilo, Hawaii in 1947, Barry K. Taniguchi was destined to take his place as the third generation in a chain of family owned supermarkets whose roots are closely intertwined with the history of the Big Island. Barry was only 12 when he started working as a courtesy clerk at the downtown branch of K. Taniguchi Supermarkets, founded by his grandparents Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi in 1916.

Through his parents and grandparents, Barry learned important life lessons early... and he learned them well. The basis of that philosophy was both very simple, yet profound, at the same time: "Give Back" it said. And Barry gave back in ways that few could imagine. Although he later assumed the position of Chairman and CEO of KTA Superstores, Barry will long be remembered for his extraordinary commitment to community service, tirelessly serving on many business and community boards, commissions and associations.

A single-spaced listing of groups that Barry served would easily fill a dozen pages or more. All the more remarkable is the fact that Barry was not one to simply "lend his name," to various causes. As his son Toby observed, his father "meant what he said and was more than willing to roll up his sleeves and jump in and get involved to help make our community a better place for everyone."

For Barry, this meant not only attending an intense schedule of meetings and events both here and on Oahu, but always being prepared to ably address often complex topics ranging from education, to land use, to health care, to finance and more.

Such leadership came naturally for Barry, who graduated from Hilo High School in 1965, where he served as student council president. After high school, Barry earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and became a certified public accountant in 1971 while working at the accounting firm of Haskins & Sells. Following employment as comptroller at Realty Investment Co., he returned to KTA in 1983.

Barry became the company's president and CEO in 1989, succeeding his uncle Tony. He continued as president until 2014, when Toby took on the role of president and chief operating officer. During his tenure as KTA president, Barry managed to guide the homegrown corporation through a challenging period of ever-intensifying competition. He oversaw the construction of KTA's Keauhou supermarket and later presided over the introduction of KTA's unique, locally produced line of Mountain Apple Brand products.

Barry, of course, proudly served as president of the Hilo High School Foundation board. Other beneficiaries of his efforts and expertise included: Hawaii Employers Mutual Insurance Co., Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii Employers Council, Hawaii Community Foundation, Tax Foundation of Hawaii, the Queen's Health Systems, and Hawaiian Electric Industries.

Barry was the founder and chairman of the board for Community First, He was very focused on Healthcare and well being. Community First became his passion project. He also served as a board member of Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Hilo Medical Center, Lyman Museum, Pacific Tsunami Museum, and Aloha Council-Boy Scouts of America. Even when things were incredibly difficult and others shied away, Barry stepped up and showed great courage and leadership, as he did in his two tenures on the Mauna Kea Management Board.

Barry was a strong supporter of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Community College, and the statewide University of Hawaii System. Under his leadership, KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd. established the Taniguchi Memorial Fund in 2007 in memory of his grandparents, Koichi and Taniyo Taniguchi, the first permanent faculty endowments at the UH-Hilo campus.

Barry passed away on September 20, 2019, but his legacy will not be forgotten. In 2013, Pacific Business News named him one of the 25 most influential business executives in Hawaii. In 2015, he was named a Living Treasure of Hawaii by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and he was inducted into the Hawaii Food Industry Association's Hall of Fame. In 2016, Barry received the Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tonight, the Hilo High School Foundation recognizes Barry K. Taniguchi and renews its commitment to carry out his desire to make Hilo High School a place where students are able to pursue their dreams, achieve their goals, and "give back" themselves one day.

Honoring
The Late John T. Masuhara
Distinguished Alumnus



John T. Masuhara was born in Aiea on the island of Oahu in 1944. The eldest child of Masato and Lillian Masuhara, John grew up helping to care for his three younger siblings – Karen, Cora and Miles – while he attended Halawa Elementary, Aiea Intermediate, and the University of Hawaii Laboratory School in Manoa.

After graduating from University Lab School in 1962, John was preparing to attend Oregon State University when his father was seriously injured in a traffic accident. His father's injuries caused John to change his plans and he attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he majored in engineering. It was a challenging time for John, having to take responsibility for the chores at home and to look after his siblings while his mother worked long hours as a seamstress and cared for his ailing father.

In spite of such hardships, John graduated from the UH Manoa and continued his studies toward a Master's in Education in 1968. It was while he was a student at Manoa that John met Charlene, who was also a student there. They were married in 1968 and moved to Hilo, where they both began their teaching careers at Hilo High School. John taught electronics and won numerous awards for his efforts.

John and Charlene then made a bold move to Columbus, Ohio, so John could attend Ohio State University. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Curriculum and Instruction in the summer of 1982 and returned to Hilo. John continued his work in Industrial Arts and became part of the District team working with teachers from various Big Island high schools. He then became an administrator, working as a vice principal at Pahoa High School and at Hilo High School, then becoming principal at Kaumana Elementary School. John was then asked to return to the District office, where he worked as a curriculum specialist.

John eventually became principal at Hilo High School, a position he served from 1996 to 2000. Charlene recalls how John was totally committed to his students, preferring to take care of business on campus rather than leaving to attend district or state meetings. He was known to get up very early and head to school so that he and the head custodian could walk the campus before others arrived. They painted over graffiti, emptied rubbish cans, and even picked up trash in the patio.

John truly loved going to all student activities – from football games to science fairs – believing that an administrator should always be present to support the students. If there were more than one or two activities taking place at the same time, he would have the vice principals attend. And, in the event that they needed another person, he would ask Charlene to attend one event while he attended another.

These are just some of the traits that made John special and why he was well-liked and respected by both students and parents. Although he was strict, his love for them always shone through. When asked what John's best qualities were, Charlene said, "Integrity," for he was always honest, trustworthy and could be counted on to follow through on all commitments.

Outside of school, John's lifelong passion was judo. Through judo and through his role as an educator and administrator John managed to touch the lives of many young people. He helped them grow into good adults, who, like him, *were* friendly, caring, supportive and inclusive.