



# Cecilia Kalino Lum

JUL 25, 1934 - JAN 14, 2021



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DIAMOND HEAD MORTUARY  
WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES

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## **Cecilia Kalino Lum**

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**C**ecilia Kalino “Cissy” Lum, 86, surrounded by her family at Castle Medical Center, passed away on January 14, 2021.

Born and raised in Koko Head, her first job as a cashier at Woodland Store in 1950 was kitty corner from her final principalship at Koko Head Elementary School, 2010.

She graduated with the highest honors at Sacred Hearts Academy in 1951 and continued at UH Manoa and UHM teachers’ college as a Te Chih Sheh Sorority sister. Upon graduation, Celia started her teaching career in Sunnyvale, California and returned to Hawaii to start her illustrious career with HDOE around 1963. Guided by the late Takao Ito and poker partner principal Betty Shishido, Cecilia forged ahead as a reading curriculum specialist and served at Kaimiloa Elementary, Ahuimanu Elementary and thirty years at Koko Head. She was a strong proponent of the Administrative Intern Program, mentoring future principals over ten years. Celia instilled respect, fairness and common sense to her staff and cohorts and offered praise or corrective advice when warranted.

During summers, Celia led bus tours across the USA via Fly Away Tours. Her Branson, Disneyland/ San Francisco, Alaska, Canada and New York tours were always sold out because of her enthusiastic and caring style and because they always managed to end in Las Vegas. Celia enjoyed Vegas and you were special if you got to travel with her. You could find her at the “Progressives” that was soon to hit or at the Redwood at the Cal.

Her greatest love was her family. Her devotion, praise, and positive spirit factored in that all of her nieces, nephews and 2 grand nephews graduated from college. Plus, her freezer always had goodies for them, including the best chocolates: Sees, Ethel M, Frango, Frans and the Turtle pralines from Savannah.

Celia is now reunited with her parents, Grace and C.K.Lum, sister, Lehua, brothers Clarence Jr. and Michael, brother in law, Norbert Bissen and nephew Earl Von Bissen. She is survived by sister,



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JoAnn Kaakua (Joseph), nieces, Toni Bissen (Dane) and Jessica Kaakua, nephews, Blaise Bissen (Adreen), Jonah Kaakua(Christine), and Joshua Kaakua (Laura). Her pride and joy are grandnephews Liam, Brian, Christian, Pono and Parker and grandnieces, Trinity, Grace and Melia.

Private Services. She will be buried at Diamond Head Memorial Park.



## Events

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### Cemetery Details

 Diamond Head Memorial Park Cemetery; 529 18th Avenue; Honolulu, Hawaii 96816



## Tribute Wall

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KN

**Kathleen Nishimura** posted:

I first met Cissy when she was Ahuimanu Elementary School principal and my son was starting Kindergarten. She really helped my son transition easily when she placed him with the most experienced Kindergarten teacher. Then over the years we connected socially every Saturday at Betty Shishido's home. All the years I've known Cissy - socially and professionally (my office was at Koko Head Elementary School when she was principal there), she was the most organized and fun to know administrator I worked with. I will truly miss her! Kathy Nishimura, Retired HI DOE OCIS Instructional Services Branch Director

February 12 at 9:50 AM

DS

**Drue-Ann Sherry** posted:

Aloha Ms.Lum you were the rock, the pillar of Koko Head Elementary School. I admired you for being YOU the loving, caring level headed and funniest principal ever. Traveling with you that one time from Reno to San Francisco on the bus was so much fun, I got to go on the trip of life time with you and I had a blast, you made it fun! I have the most upmost respect for you and always. We love you so now history is repeating itself my 2 children went there and now so does my grandson. Rest In Peace your home again flying with those angels Ms.Lum ❤️❤️ Love you forever 🙏❤️❤️❤️

February 8 at 3:50 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Winston Chow** posted:

I worked in the office side once in a while and she always supported staff and handled conflicts like a master. I remember eating lunch or snacks with her and others in the conference room and when somebody came up to her with a problem she gave a quick response and solved it right away. I had the pleasure of working at Koko Head for almost 10 years and also worked with her sister at Pihana Na Mamo. I remember that she mentioned some of the principals would get together to play poker and if they talked about problems they had at their schools they had to put money into a pot. She would also tell some of her stories from her trips. I always saw her loving the kids development and the teachers that did the same. If kids were in her office she didn't make the kids feel bad and they left her office learning from their mistakes. Principals must deal with students, teachers, and staff under them as well as Department of Education at the district and state level, union rules, Parent Teacher Association, individual parents, community leaders, fluctuations in funding and enrollment numbers. Ms. Lum was a linch-pin that kept it all together and kept the school running for the kids. I worked with the other Kaiser Complex principals, but she was the most revered among staff and in the district. You can tell good leaders by the demeanor of those under them. I never heard of other schools or district people complain about Ms. Lum or Koko Head Elementary. You know, "the chatter". I only heard people talk of her in a good light. I wish I went to an elementary school under her as a kid. She was wise through experience and had a way of resolving conflicts. She made the kids see reason over emotions and of course, supported technology. This article from 2010 for her retirement echoes my words. [https://www.staradvertiser.com/2010/11/06/hawaii-news/school-cheers-scores-ex-principal-birthday/Rest in Pease Ms. Lum](https://www.staradvertiser.com/2010/11/06/hawaii-news/school-cheers-scores-ex-principal-birthday/Rest%20in%20Pease%20Ms.%20Lum). I think they should rename Koko Head Elementary as Cecilia Lum Elementary.

January 26 at 1:46 PM



**Winston Chow** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



February 6 at 10:28 AM



**Mike Hanson** lit a candle in honor of Cecilia.

Aloha Cecilia -Mike & Doris Hanson



February 1 at 10:36 AM



## Tribute Wall

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JP

**Joyce Pien** posted:

Ms. Lum was a pillar of wisdom and guidance to me during my years working at Koko Head Elementary School. In addition to implementing school programs with fidelity, she skillfully built bridges with parents, teachers, and students. I am forever grateful for the impact she made in my life with her wisdom, support, and, of course, winsome personality. Sincerely, Joyce (Yuan) Pien

January 31 at 3:21 PM

MB

**Maryjean Bresnan** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Ms Lum - was one of the first people I met walking my boys to school ( kokohead) in Aug of 2003!! FOB from JERSEY !! She was kind, welcoming and I was soon on the Friends of Koko Head school board getting my hands into making our our school epic with her 100% guidance !! I ran into her at See's Candy shop in Dec 2016 and grabbed this pic !! I sat in her office many times talking story ... her legacy is epic and the one she left with me personally was - lemon crunch cake from Aiea Bowl !! Rest in love and forever paradise Ms. Cecelia Lum



January 31 at 4:49 AM

RP

**Richard Port** posted:

I first met Cissie when I was an administrator for the Department of Education and was transferred to Koko Head General Education Branch. Cissie Lum was an incredible Principal and it didn't take long for me to find out why. I soon learned that Cissie was like a big sister to her teaching staff and like a surrogate mother to the students at her school. She was very kind and caring to everyone, the kind of person who exudes love from every pore of her body. Since moving to Massachusetts in 2019, we would call Cissie frequently, and would always end our call by telling Cissie how much we loved her. We will miss her, Richard & Ann Port.

January 29 at 10:57 AM

MM

**Maile Marciel** posted:

Thank you Mrs Lum for being the greatest principal ever. So thankful for all the wonderful and memorable years at koko head elementary. My condolences to your ohana.

January 26 at 1:46 PM



# Media

**Cecilia Kalino Lum**  
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Winston Chow shared 2 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

February 6 at 10:28 AM



2007 July 25 Birthday Party



2007 July 25 Birthday Party



## Media

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Maryjean Bresnan shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 31 at 4:49 AM





# **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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