



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
FOUNDATION

Matsuro and Tsuruko Nakasone

MATSURO AND TSURUKO NAKASONE ENDOWMENT FUND

REASON FOR THE GIFT

The Matsuro and Tsuruko Nakasone Endowment Fund was established to provide students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with the opportunity to engage in study or research in Okinawa-related subjects to further their understanding of Okinawa, its people, culture and history.

ABOUT THE HONOREES



Matsuro Nakasone was born in 1903 in Okinawa and immigrated to Hawai'i in 1920. Tsuruko Tamanaha, born on Maui in 1910 and sent to Okinawa to spend most of her childhood there, returned to Hawai'i in 1925 and, in 1932, married Matsuro Nakasone. They had five sons and one daughter. Matsuro started out as a plantation field worker and later became the cook at the Lana'i Plantation. Because of limited educational opportunities in Lana'i, the family moved to Honolulu and started a hot dog stand on Hotel Street. They worked hard to support families in Hawai'i and Okinawa. As with many poor immigrant families, life in the beginning was difficult, but with a tremendous amount of hard work and determination, they were able to develop a successful small business.

Since both Matsuro and Tsuruko had limited education, they were determined to send all their children to college. Today, their family includes an accountant, two engineers, a businessman, a computer programmer, and a banker. Matsuro passed away in 1995 and Tsuruko in 2011.

Education and Okinawa were important to them in their lives. On the occasion of Tsuruko Nakasone's 100th birthday, the Matsuro and Tsuruko Nakasone Endowment Fund was established in their honor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center for Okinawa Studies. This endowment fund will allow students to further their Okinawan studies while continuing the legacy of Matsuro and Tsuruko Nakasone's interest in education and Okinawa.