



DAVID NAKADA



Do you remember David Nakada, the really entertaining guy who enjoyed being with people and was everybody's best friend? The photo on the right is how the world sees David today. However, the photo on the left is what David sees in the mirror everyday and it is who he really is. Since you were his classmates, you have had the privilege of knowing the true David. The guy on the left.

David always saw himself as just being a regular guy. He had no airs or great expectations. He lived his life just being himself. On his first day at Kaimuki, he got hijacked by Frenchy Machado. David was so good with people that Frenchy eventually became one of David's friends. Of course, David sometimes had to wonder who his friends really were. Bert Nakashima once encouraged David to do his famous imitation of Sung Ho Shin in chemistry class. Poor David was the only one unaware that Sung Ho was standing behind him at the time.

David claims he barely graduated from Kaimuki and would never have gone to college without the help of counselors Mrs. Edna Nakamura and Mr. Seiso Taniguchi who saw the potential in the "misunderstood underachiever." He says, "My GPA was so bad that it didn't meet the minimum standard for the University of Hawaii, so I didn't bother to apply. I don't know how Mrs. Nakamura swung it, but I got the interview, then filled out an application." The counselors were proven right because David went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

David majored in elementary education. He said he only did it to get a job, but it is not surprising that he chose a profession where he could help mold young minds and mentor "misunderstood underachievers." He has made a career in helping kids find success in whatever they might choose to do. As a youngster, he saw the value of being given a chance and is the first in line to offer kids a helping hand.

David has been working for the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii for 32 years. He has been the Executive Director since 1979, overseeing an operation with a budget of over \$5 million and providing services to 14,000 kids on Oahu and Kauai. The club provides homework help, access to computers, excursions and activities for kids who otherwise might not have anywhere to go. As if this weren't enough to do, David also serves on the Hawaii Community Foundation Board, the Hawaii Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Executive Committee and is a Director on the Hawaiian Electric Company Board. He inspired the establishment of a youth college scholarship which was named the David Nakada Endowment Fund. He rubs shoulders with the movers and shakers of our community.

One day at UH, David was late for class and was running down a stairway full blast, turned a corner and saw a beautiful woman sitting on the stairs. He had to jump over her to avoid knocking her down. It turns out that Lois Higashide was a 1970 Kaimuki grad; she eventually became his wife and they have a son and daughter. Their children asked to attend Kaimuki High School even though the family did not live in the district. So now the whole Nakada family are loyal Kaimuki alumni.

David still finds joy in doing the things he did with his friends while in high school. He surfs on the weekends with Bobby Tom. He is trying to get Steve Miyamoto, Reuben Iao and Jacob Tanaka to go on a surfing trip with him to Tavarua, Namotu, Western Samoa and Pohnpei. He values his old friendships and sharing good times with good people.

David says he is a terrible golfer, not a good fisherman, cannot dive or play music. This may be true, but David only downplays his talents because he was never the kind of person who looked for any praise for his accomplishments, of which there are many - impressive and well-deserved. David is happy surfing and is grateful for his wife, his family and his friends.

And inside, David still is the guy on the left.