

## **20081217 Retiree News: Special Edition**

Lt Col (Ret) Keith Kunichika contacted me over the weekend to inform me that his uncle, Colonel Ritchie Kunichika had passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2008. Keith mentioned that Kuni passed after a short illness.

During the majority of his Hawaii Air National Guard career, Kuni flew fighters with the 199th Fighter Squadron. He later transitioned to the C-7 and C-130 support aircraft. Kuni flew the HIANG's only support aircraft prior to the activation of the 204th Airlift Squadron.

When Kuni took his mandatory technician retirement at age 55, he transferred to the Hawaii Army National Guard, where he flew the HIARNG's utility aircraft until he retired militarily.

In civilian life, Kuni piloted the corporate jet for a local bank.

His wife Hideko and daughters, Tracy and Heidi, survive Kuni. Heidi is the former member of the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron.

The family will have a small private memorial service, and the newspaper obituaries will come out later.

For those who want to express their condolences and words of support to the Kunichika family, you can send an e-mail to Heidi at: [hideem22@gmail.com](mailto:hideem22@gmail.com). The Kunichika family will appreciate any remembrances you relate about Kuni.