AGNES NIYEKAWA — May 9, 1924 to May 4, 2012

Agnes was born on May 9th 1924 in Tokyo but attended primary school in Vienna, Austria, where her father represented Japan in the diplomatic corps. Her family returned to Japan before WW2. She received her first B.A. from Tokyo Women’s University in 1945, after which she came to the U.H. to earn a subsequent B.A. in sociology in 1952. In 1954 she received the M.A. degree from Bryn Mawr College in PA, and a PhD in 1960 from New York University. She lectured and taught in a host of universities in Europe and the U.S. before returning to U.H. as Assoc. Prof. of Ed. Psych. at UHM. (1964-67), teaching (1967-71) and Chair (1971-81) of the East Asian Language Dept. in the U.H. East West Center. She was a Fulbright grantee for research on languages in Japan (1981-82), returning to Hawaii to teach Japanese in the UHM A&S College until 1991 when she retired after 25 years at UHM with the status of Prof. Emeritus of Japanese. During all of this time she wrote and had published three books concerning the cultural impact of languages, and the social politeness of the Japanese language.

Agnes was recognized and honored many times including:

3) American Austrian of the Year 2007, Austrian Assoc. of Hawaii

She was a dedicated member of FRAUHM and the Austrian Assoc. of Hawaii where, as Chair of the entertainment committee, produced a series of programs showing many Viennese-type operettas on DVDs she had acquired during her many trips to Austria. She became the “Queen of Operettas for the A.A.H.”.

After suffering a fractured hip and 11 days in Queen’s Hospital in Honolulu, Agnes passed away May 4. We will surely miss her - Aloha Oe!