Isamu Kanetani was born on July 7, 1916, in Hilo, Hawaii. He was the son of Chujiro and Hideno Kanetani. He was educated at Kapiolani School, Hilo Intermediate School, Hawaii. Before entering the service, he was employed as a laborer at the Olaa Sugar Co., Ltd., Hilo, Hawaii.

Isamu Kanetani was inducted into the Army on at March 24, 1941, in Olaa, Hawaii (Serial number, 30101187). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 299th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company F, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt Isamu Kanetani was killed in action on November 6, 1943, at Santa Maria Oliveto, Italy during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign. He is interred at the Veterans Cemetery, Hawaii.

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