Yasuo Kawano was born on July 24, 1919 in Hilo, Hawaii. He was the son of Yaekichi and Yaeki Kawano. He was educated at Hilo Intermediate School, Hilo High School, Hawaii. Before entering the service, he was employed as an office clerk at Hilo Brewery, Ltd., Hilo, Hawaii.

Kawano (SN 30101165) was inducted into the Army in Hilo, Hawaii in March, 1941. He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 299th Infantry Regiment. He was later assigned to Company D, 100th Infantry Battalion for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

He served in the Hawaiian Island, continental United States, Algeria, Africa 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.

Pfc. Yasuo Kawano was killed in action near Pozzilli, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign on November 5, 1943.

He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Exerpts taken from In Freedom’s Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.
Russell K. Shoho