Kazuo Nishihara was born on November 30, 1919, in Puunene, Maui. He was the son of Ichiso and Mitsuyo (Numata) Nishihara. He was educated at Puunene School and Maui High School, Maui. Before entering the service, he was employed as a mechanic at the K. Mishima Fender Shop, Honolulu, Oahu.

Kazuo Nishihara was inducted into the Army on November 15, 1941, at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial number, 30102278). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company D, in the Hawaiian Island, 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.

Pfc Kazuo Nishihara was killed in action at Ailano and Alife, Italy, October 30, 1943, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign. He is interred at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery, Makawao, Maui.