



Gov. Ben Cayetano shook hands with Larry Mehau after a political rally in Hilo organized by Mehau in 1998, top. At left, Mehau attended a gathering at the home of entertainer Jim Nabors in 2011. Shown with Mehau, seated at right, are, former Hawaii first lady Jean Ariyoshi, seated at left, and longtime island columnist Eddie Sherman, back left, and Mehau's wife, Beverly.

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Larry Mehau was alleged but he and his eminent p

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Larry Ehukai Mehau, a Big Island rancher and former Honolulu police vice sergeant who was friend to Hawaii governors as well as some of the state's notorious crime figures, died Tuesday. He was 86.

“He was the type of person that if he was going to help you, he would do it 100 percent.”

John Waihee
Former Hawaii governor, speaking about Larry Mehau, a Big Island businessman who had relationships with politicians, entertainers and crime figures

“The guy was an amazing man,” Kaneshiro said. “People really don’t appreciate how smart and how well connected he was. He knew everybody in all fields, he got information and knowledge from all these different contacts that he had. He was also a very good businessman.”

Waihee said the allegations that Mehau was an organized crime godfather made for a “spectacular story,” but added that “I never saw any evidence of that at all.”

“It was never established, and in my mind it was never something I would judge him on,” he said.