



Cleo Annette Ornellas

DEC 2, 1959 - NOV 21, 2025



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MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

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Cleo Annette Ornellas, 65 years old peacefully transitioned to walk with the Lord and be reunited with her mother, Irene, father John, brother John and baby boy John.

Cleo was born at Hilo Hospital on December 2, 1959 to parents John and Irene Ornellas. Cleo attended Saint Joseph school from kindergarten until she graduated with her high school diploma. Cleo also attended one semester at Hawaii Community College.


Cleo was the matriarch and foundation of her family, immediate and extended. She worked at DMV Licensing office for some years and then worked at Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council as a Food distributor island wide. This is also where she met her life-long partner and soulmate, Russell Omija.


Cleo quit her job there to become the primary caretaker of her mother until her passing in November of 2009. Shortly after, she was blessed with two granddaughters in which she became a secondary caretaker. Cleo valued helping others. The doors of her home were always open to anyone in need. She spent the last chunk of her years on Earth selflessly taking care of others with compassion and respect.


Cleo showed her love in a way that was unique to everyone. She peacefully passed at home surrounded by her children, partner and sisters. Cleo is survived by soulmate Russell, daughter Krystel (Matthew) Dye, sons Steven and Kodey Mata, sisters Dale Lucas and Lynda Panem. Granddaughters, Madysen and Makenzy. Grandson Maddox. Along with numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews.



Memorial Service

 **Friday**, January 9, 2026

 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM HST

 **Homelani Crematory**
388 Ponahawai St., HILO HI 96720

- Services will be held January 9, 2026 at Homelani Memorial Park in the chapel from 11am-1pm. Lunch and beverages will be provided.





Tribute Wall

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David Chang posted:

Condolences to the Ornellas Ohana. Cleo and my sister, Sandy aka Shag, were best friends for over 40 years. I remember talking smack to Cleo and she could take it and dish it back just as good. Those were memories that me and my sister will cherish the rest of our lives. Cleo was a dear family friend and we were blessed to have known her. Sending our love and aloha, RIL Cleo, The Chang Ohana

December 7 at 2:51 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Cleo by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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