Loren W. Fessler was a China scholar and foreign correspondent, as well as a friend and mentor to many East-West Center alumni and other young Americans living in Taiwan and Hong Kong during the 1970s and aspiring to careers in academe or journalism.

Loren was born in Montana in 1923, enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II, served with the OSS (precursor to the CIA) in France and China, attended Harvard on the GI Bill, graduating in 1950. He began his journalism career as a freelancer for The New York Times in Taiwan and later worked as a staff writer in Hong Kong for Time-Life. He subsequently worked for the American Universities Field Staff, a consortium that included the University of Hawaii.

He died on Feb. 28, 2002, at the age of 78.