

“Irei No Hi” Remembrance Event 2017

“*Irei no Hi*,” known as Okinawa’s Memorial Day, is commemorated on June 23 each year in Okinawa. It is a time when citizens remember and honor the thousands of people, both military and civilians, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa, the last and one of the biggest battles of the Pacific at the end of World War II.

The NHK documentary, “*Compassion in a War Zone (Senju No Chimugukuru)*” tells the real life story of the struggles that Okinawans endured during and after the war. It is a moving and compelling documentary highlighting the efforts of *Nisei* soldier, Taro Higa, and other *Nisei* who saved thousands of lives as the Pacific war came to an end.

Taro Higa, who was born in Hawaii and raised by his grandparents in Okinawa as a youngster, was wounded in Italy as a 100th Infantry Battalion soldier. He returned from Europe and was assigned to visit Japanese American internment camps to share the stories of our *Nisei* soldiers at war. He later requested an assignment to Okinawa as he learned the Battle of Okinawa was to take place.

He also helped with survival efforts after the war ended by arranging for aid from the American Red Cross and *Uchinanchu* from Hawaii and was part of the shipment of pigs and goats to Okinawa. This is a movie not to be missed.

- RSVP by June 12, 2017 to attend and pre-order bentos.
- There will be no admission charge to view the movie.
- Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and other tasks.

For more information, to RSVP and/or help, contact: Gwen or Ann at Ireinohi2017@gmail.com, or call HUOA at 676-5400.

[Article from HUOA March/April Uchinanchu newsletter.]

HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

*commemorates Okinawa Memorial Day, remembering
the lives lost during the Battle of Okinawa*

“Irei no Hi”

June 22, 2017 - 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Hawaii Okinawa Center

Exhibits and meet WWII Veterans from
the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

At 6:30, the NHK documentary
“Compassion in a War Zone”
will be shown. It highlights the work of
Nisei Soldier, Thomas Taro Higa. He
is credited for saving many Okinawan
lives at the end of the war and leading
the financial and in-kind aid to Okinawa
from Hawaii.



FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

PRE-ORDER BENTOS ARE AVAILABLE.**

**QUESTIONS: CONTACT THE HUOA OFFICE AT
676-5400 OR Ireinohi2017@gmail.com**

Pre-Order Bentos available for purchase:

- 1) Mini (teri beef, boneless teri chicken, rice, shoga) = \$7.00
- 2) Large (boneless kalbi, boneless teri chicken, rice, takuan) = \$12.00
- 3) Vegetarian yakisoba (vegetables, tofu, yakisoba) = \$8.00

Bento payments can be mailed-in to the HUOA office at: 95-587 Ukee St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

Deadline for Bento orders - June 14, 2017.

Bento Order Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/Op7FeDVdiFIA43b62>

Wish to volunteer Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/JmCYzrT7odgfNVq33>