

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 12 2019

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hawaii Island

Request for a Right of Entry for the Construction of a World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque on Piopio Street in Hilo, Hawaii, Near the Vietnam Memorial which Currently Exists within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area in Hilo, Hawaii Tax Map Key: (3) 2-2-013: portion of 003

PURPOSE:

Approve Right of Entry for the construction of a World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque located within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area to honor and perpetuate the memory of the individuals lost during the Korean War.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 171- 55 as amended

LOCATION:

Portion of State of Hawaii lands within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area, Hilo, Hawaii, identified by Tax Map Key (3) 2-2-013: portion of 003.

AREA:

Footprint of the memorial to be approximately 16' x 16' within the approximate 131.9 acres of the park.

ZONING:

State Land Use District:	Urban
County of Hawaii:	Open

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Acquired after 8/1959

DHHL 30% entitlement land pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution: Yes ___ No X

CHAPTER 343 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The Division of State Parks believes that this project will have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and §11-200-8(a)(1), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and within exemption Class 3 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Exemption List which exempts construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures [June 5, 2015].

CURRENT USE STATUS:

Part of area maintained for the Vietnam Memorial.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Memorial, construction, operation and maintenance of purposes.

REMARKS:

Background:

By correspondence dated February 20, 2019, James G. Y. Ho, President/Historian of the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum and Archive, and WWII Veteran (Exhibit A), is requesting on behalf of the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum & Archives, to obtain a Right of Entry for the construction of a World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque to be located to the current Vietnam Memorial within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area.

As stated by Mr. James Ho, "The legacies left by those seventeen fallen heroes and the saga of the 9 survivors, all sons of Hawaii are worth defining, displaying and cherishing. The story of courage, sacrifice, bravery and brotherly love for our servicemen is therefore fitting and should be commemorated."

Conceptual Plan for Memorial:

The conceptual drawings for the memorial were submitted with the February 20, 2019 correspondence (Exhibit C and Exhibit D). The site for the World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque will be at Piopio Street, T.M.K. 2-2-13:03. The footprint for the memorial is anticipated to be 4' x 4', with the memorial itself at 30" x 30". The funding for the project will be the responsibility of the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum & Archives, Honolulu Hawaii.

The footprint of the proposed World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque will be within the area which the County of Hawaii, Parks and Recreation Division currently maintains, and they have agreed to add the World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque to their area of maintenance.

Staff Comments:

Staff is recommending approval of the issuance of a Right of Entry to the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum and Archive, for the construction of the memorial. The contractor will be determined at a later date and will be one of mutual approval between the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum and Archive group and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Parks Division.

Staff is also recommending that future requests similar to this submittal be allowed with the Chairperson's approval.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this project will have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Approve the issuance of a Right of Entry to the World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque Veterans Group, Big Island Chapter, for the construction of the World War II Dedication Memorial Plaque within the Wailoa River State Recreation Area subject to the following conditions:
3. Permittee, its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, consultants, contractors, and/or persons acting for, or on its behalf, shall at all times with respect to the Wailoa River State Recreation Area; a) use due care for public safety; b) agrees to release the State of Hawaii from any claims which Permittee might have against the State of Hawaii arising out of Permittee's occupation or use of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area; and c) shall be responsible for its own acts;
4. Final plans for the memorial, including its exact location, and selection of the contractor for the construction of the project shall be subject to approval of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks;
5. The contractor shall procure and maintain, at its own cost and expense, in full force and effect throughout the term of this Right of Entry, commercial general liability insurance, in an amount of at least \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$2,000,000.00 aggregate, with an insurance company or companies licensed to do business in the State of Hawaii. The policy or policies of insurance shall name the State of Hawaii as an additional insured. The policy should also contain the following clause: "It is agreed that any insurance maintained by the

State of Hawaii will apply in excess of, and not contribute with, insurance provided by this policy". The insurance shall cover the entire Wailoa River State Recreation Area, including all grounds, buildings and all roadways or sidewalks on or adjacent to the Wailoa River SRA in the use or control of the Permittee;

5. The permittee shall immediately provide written notice to the Department should any of the insurance policies evidenced on its Certificate of Insurance form be cancelled, limited in scope, or not renewed upon expiration;

6. The permittee enter into an agreement with the County of Hawaii for the maintenance of the grounds of the constructed memorial and guarantees the memorial is maintained should the County of Hawaii no longer perform these tasks;


7. The Chairperson or her representative is authorized to negotiate all other terms and conditions of the Right of Entry.

Respectfully submitted,



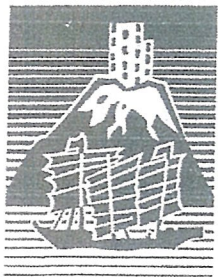
Curt A. Cottrell
Administrator
Division of State Parks

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Exhibit A – Letters and attachments from Mr. James Ho



Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum & Archives

January 7, 2017

James G.Y. Ho
President/Historian
Email: chinatownmuseum@gmail.com

Officers

President
James G.Y. Ho

World War II Big Island Soldiers on the sinking of the Transport Royal T Frank out of Pearl Harbor January 28, 1942.

Senior Vice President
William H.K. Lum

By James Ho, WWII veteran, teacher, coach Hilo High 1953, Hawaiian Historian

Secretary
Beverly C. Wong

Shigeru Ushijima and George Takeda soldiers who survived this sinking told me their experience of what happened. The following is their historic story of the actual happening of the sinking of the US Transport Royal T Frank based on the military draft law of 1940 it was alphabetically. Therefore, they were in this last group from the Big Island. Their basic military training was held at Schofield Barracks.

Treasurer
Donald T.S. Hiu

Recording Secretary
Patricia H. Ho

During the December 7th, 1941 attack, the men were under fire by enemy Japanese warplanes strafing the barracks. The latter part of January 1942 they completed their military training. They boarded trucks to Pearl Harbor to be transported back to the Big Island. All told there were 26 soldiers. All were assigned to the 299th Infantry of the Territory Guard. On the early morning of January 28th, 1942 as the "Frank" was in the deep Alenuihaha Channel, it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. This Alenuihaha Channel is located on the waters of Kohala on the Big Island and Kaupo, Maui. Seventeen of the Big Island soldiers were below deck in their cabins. Nine others were above deck sleeping including Shigeru Ushijima and George Takeda mainly because it was too hot and humid below.

Directors
Keakealani L. Char
Beatrice L. Lau
Patricia Warren
Leslie Mow
Ed Tam
Lynette Tam

When the torpedo hit the small troop transport and exploded, these two men were blown into the ocean. The ship broke in half and sank taking with it the seventeen soldiers. Of the nine Big Island soldiers that survived, eight were Japanese American and one Portuguese American. The Japanese American soldiers became the forerunners of the famous 100th Battalion and the lone Portuguese American became a member of the 299th Infantry of the Territorial Guard and spent his tour

of duty in the Pacific until Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945. The eight Japanese soldiers in the 100th Battalion were separated into different units. They never saw each other until the end of the war in Europe.

Somehow, they all found out that each had survived WWII. Together they honored their dead buddies in the sinking of the " US Transport Royal T Frank every January 28th. All nine soldiers are gone today.

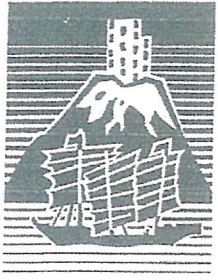
I don't know if their tradition is still being carried out today in 2016. The state of Hawaii funded Hawaiian-Chinese Multicultural Museum that I represent, would like to honor these brave Big Island soldiers with a monument in Hilo located by the eternal fire – Big Island County Building. There would be no expense to the County of Hawaii. All costs will be by this non-profit foundation.

In 1999, this organization in cooperation with the Big Island Mayor and Counsel and the 299th Infantry National Guard and others, held a huge ceremony to honor these 17 Big Island soldiers who died in the sinking of the US Transport Royal T Frank. Shigeru Ushijima and George Takeda were still living at the time and therefore were recognized.

When I used to lecture on the Holland American cruise ship and it goes to Hilo, I would see Mayor Harry Kim. (He was my best man on the 440 and 880 track team in Hilo High School in about 1956.) At that time, when I told him about the WWII story about the 26 Big Island soldiers aboard the Royal T Frank, he immediately told me that a memorial should be put next to the eternal flame to honor these Big Island WWII soldiers.



James G.Y. Ho
President/Historian
Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum & Archives



Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum & Archives

February 20, 2019

James G.Y. Ho
President/Historian

Officers

President
James G.Y. Ho

**Senior Vice
President**
William H.K. Lum

Secretary
Beverly C. Wong

Treasurer
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Mr. Dean Takebayashi
Hawaii Parks District Superintendent
State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Dear Mr. Takebayashi,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum and Archives, Honolulu, Hawaii I would like to respectfully request that the Board of Land and Natural Resources grant a Right of Entry and therefore permission for the construction of a WWII Dedication Memorial plaque honoring the services and legacies of the servicemen of the Royal T. Frank transport that was torpedoed and sunk on January 28, 1942. The proposed site would be on Piopio Street, Hilo, Hawaii near the Vietnam War Memorial.

The legacies left by those seventeen fallen heroes and the saga of the 9 survivors, all sons of Hawaii are worth defining, displaying and cherishing. This story of courage, sacrifice, bravery and brotherly love for our servicemen is therefore fitting and should be commemorated.

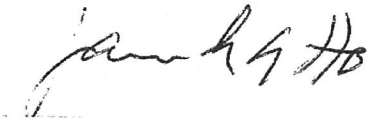
The drawing for the dedication memorial plaque completed January 30, 2019 by Roy Broadgate (Exhibit A, Exhibit B) are included in this communique. The site for the WWII Dedication Memorial plaque will be at Piopio Street. T.M.K. 2-2-13:03.

The footprint for the memorial is anticipated to be 4'x4' with a walkway approximately 3'x12' from the nearest sidewalk. Total area to be approximately 52 square feet.

I have had discussions with the County of Hawaii Honorable Mayor Harry Kim and Administrative staff to discuss these plans.(Exhibit C). This granting of a Right of Entry to allow construction of this dedication/memorial plaque is a necessary step to continue and I appreciate your time and approval for this to proceed.

It is my sincere desire to construct this Royal T. Frank Dedication Memorial plaque for our brave heroes that served our country during WWII.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James G.Y. Ho', written in a cursive style.

James G.Y. Ho
President Historian. WWII Veteran
Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum and Archive

Cc: Rose Bautista, Executive Assistant, County of Hawaii. Office of the Mayor
Linda and Roy Broadgate, Representatives for James G.Y. Ho

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A: Conceptual drawing for the Royal T Frank Dedication Memorial Plaque, Pg 1-2
Exhibit B: Dedication Memorial Plaque
Exhibit C: Correspondence to the Honorable Mayor Harry Kim, County of Hawaii

EXHIBIT A
Conceptual drawing for the Royal T Frank Dedication Memorial Plaque
Page 1

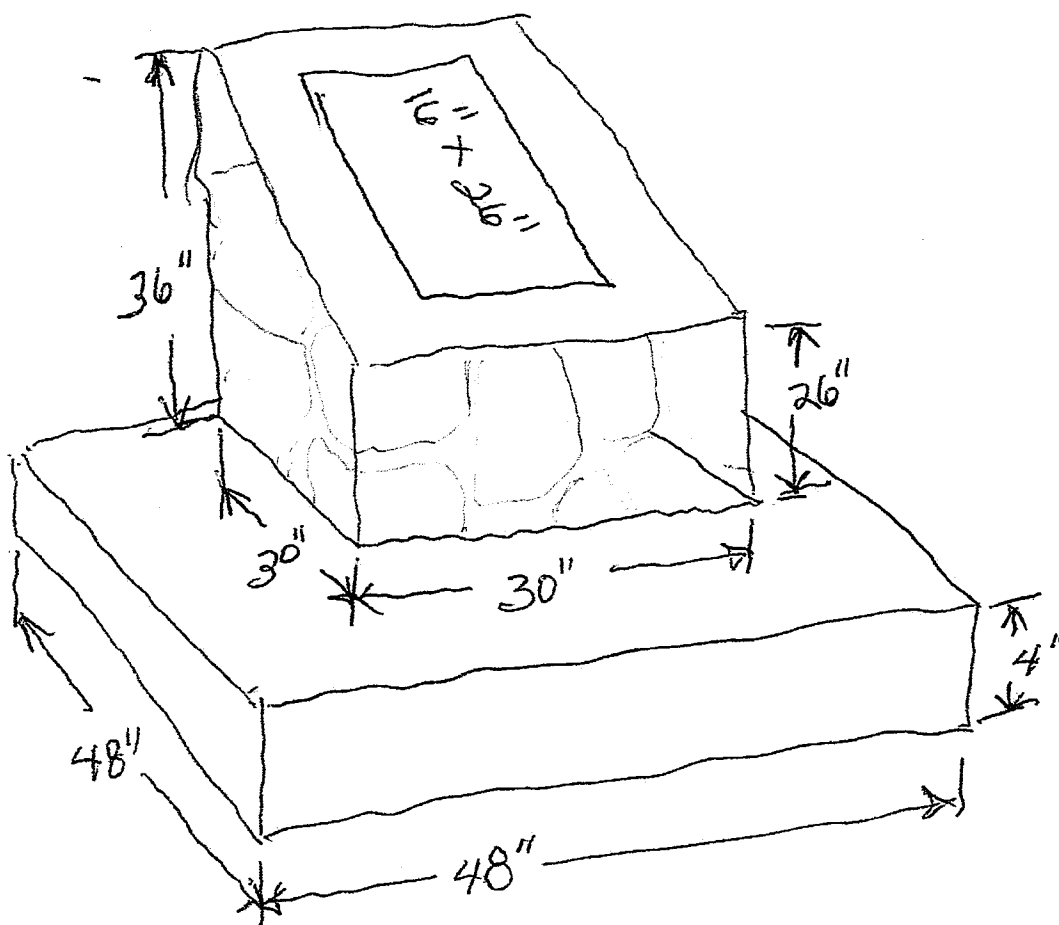
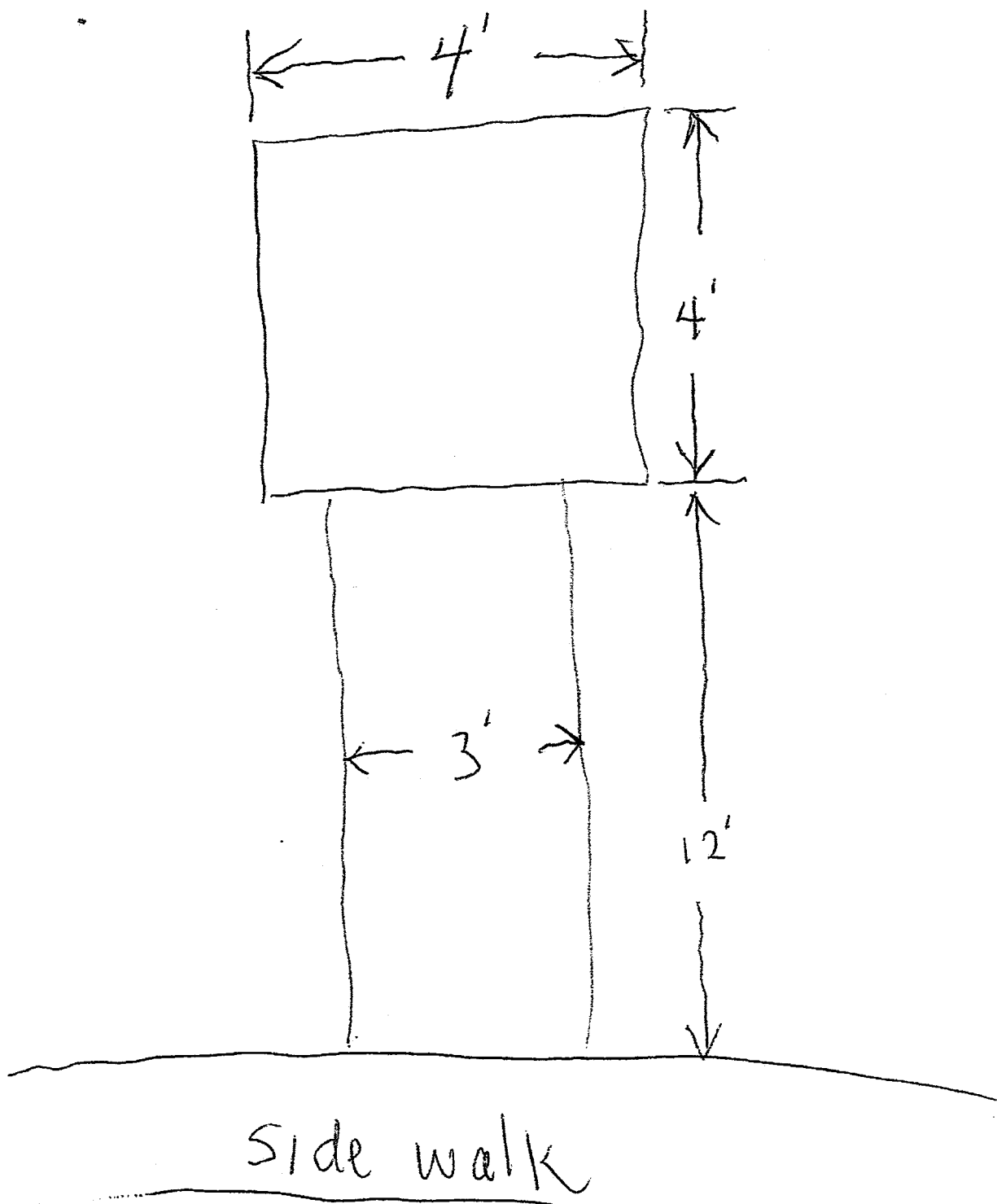


EXHIBIT A
Conceptual drawing for the Royal T Frank Dedication Memorial Plaque
Page 2

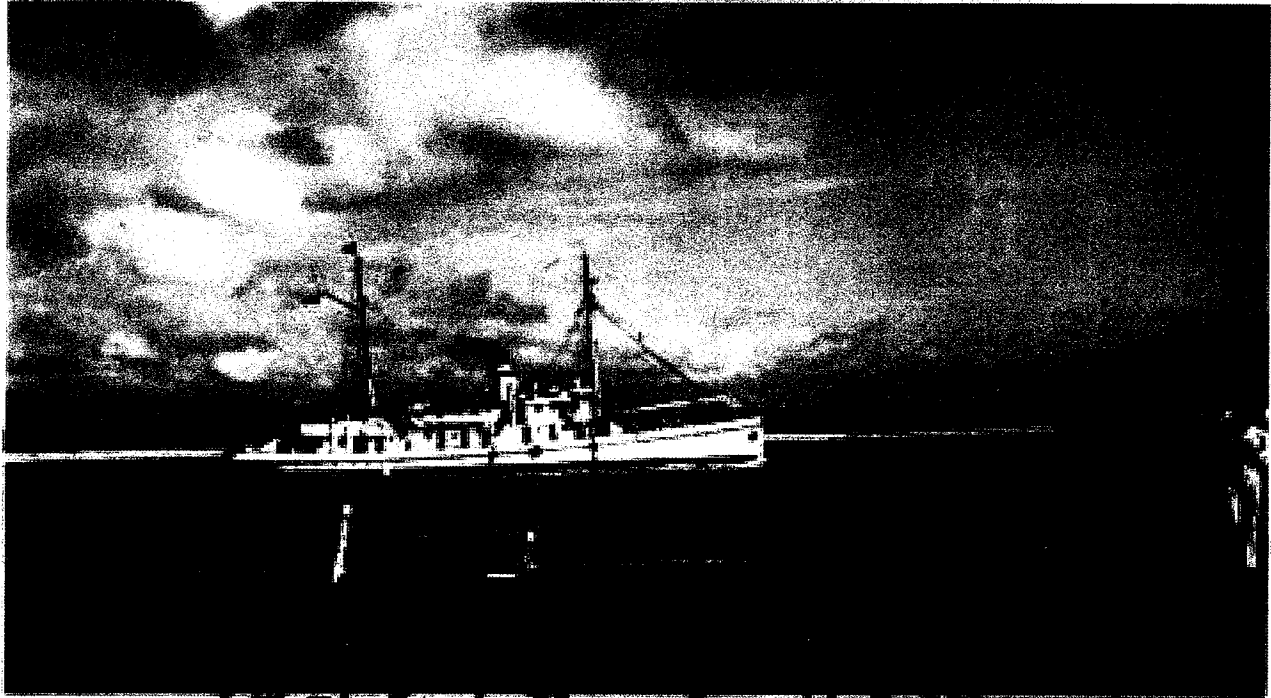


WWII SINKING OF THE US ARMY TRANSPORT "ROYAL T. FRANK"

OUT OF PEARL HARBOR, JANUARY 28, 1942

KILLING BIG ISLAND SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO THE 299TH TERRITORIAL GUARD

IN DEDICATION AND MEMORIAL FOR THESE SERVICEMEN



Royal T. Frank - Held Bound

With 26 Big Island soldiers on board it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sunk in the Alenuihaha Channel between Maui and Kohala, Big Island, HI.

Big Island soldiers killed in the attack were:

Pvt. Iwao Nakamura

Pvt. Yoshito Nii

Pvt. Shoji Okido

Pvt. Larry M. Oku

Pvt. Reginald M. Osato

Pvt. John Perreira

Pvt. John S. Rodrigues

Pvt. Raymond H. Shirakawa

Pvt. Yeishum Soken

Pvt. Shinichi Shiigi

Pvt. Bushichi Tani

Pvt. Pernal Torrijos

Pvt. Alfred Veriato

Pvt. Torao Yamamizu

Pvt. Albert H. Yano

Pvt. Yonezo Yonemura

Pvt. Hook Yuen Young

Missing in Action

Joseph Apana

Taichi Nakata

Nine Big Island soldiers who survived the attack were:

Yoshio Ogomori

Shigeru Ushijima

John R. Souza
Tokimaru Takamoto
George Y. Taketa
Shizuo Toma

Tsutomu Wakimoto
Haruo Yamashita
Susumu Yoshioka

**All 9 survivors of WWII never forgot their fallen buddies.
honored them.**

Every January 28th they

Today January 28, 2019 they are all gone!

Credits:

1. US Army Museum of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
2. 298th Hawaii National Guard
3. 299th Hawaii National Guard
4. State of Hawaii: Rod Tam, David Matsuura
5. County of Hawaii Office of the Mayor, The Honorable Harry Kim
6. Hawaiian Chinese Multicultural Museum, Honolulu, HI. State of Hawaii non-profit organization, 1996.

James G.Y. Ho, President and WWII Veteran;

Officers and supporters in kind: William H.K. Lum, Helen Ho, Keakealani Char, Ed Tam, Francis and Beverly C. Wong, Patricia Ho, Gladys Ching, Herbert Lee, Stanley Ho, Florence Ho, Jan and Scott Ehara, Les Mow, Darren Acoba, Claude Uehara, Benton Ho, Brad Ho, Brayton Ho

