



Proclamation

A humble man of faith, Representative Akira Sakima devoted the majority of his life serving the people of Hawai'i and Okinawa, while strengthening the friendship between the United States and Japan at a critical time in history.

Born into an immigrant family from Okinawa, Rep. Sakima grew up on a pig farm in Kalihi. He was actively involved in his community throughout his life, serving on the board of Kokua Kalihi Valley for more than 30 years, where he helped instigate the organization's health and social service programs, as well as on the boards of the Kalihi Palama Community Council, Susannah Wesley Community Center and Kalihi YMCA, in addition to his ministry at Kalihi's Community of Christ Church.

Rep. Sakima extended this dedication to the State House of Representatives, where he served Kalihi Valley for nine terms, from 1959 through 1976. Passionate about Hawai'i's public education, he chaired the House Education and Higher Education committees and was elected to the Board of Education following his legislative career. Many of his House colleagues still praise his ability to encourage and develop younger leaders, and testify that, even after leaving the legislature, Rep. Sakima actively advised his successors.

Beyond his distinguished public service, Rep. Sakima made an important impact in Okinawa and helped strengthen the relationship between Japan and the United States following World War II. In 1949, Rep. Sakima helped bring 600 milking goats to war-torn Okinawa, and later returned, participating in a goodwill mission. Moreover, he shared his farming expertise as an advisor with the U.S. Army in 1963, in order to help develop Okinawa's agriculture. In 2000, Rep. Sakima was honored for his efforts to strengthen Japanese-American relations and was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosetta by the Japanese Government.

Locally, Rep. Sakima was active in Hawai'i's Okinawan community, and was honored as *Uchinanchu of the Year* in 1985 by the United Okinawan Association of Hawai'i for his community service and efforts to perpetuate the Okinawan culture.

Above all, Rep. Akira Sakima was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who will be remembered for his devotion to his family and service to our state and Okinawa.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i do hereby proclaim **April 29, 2007**, as

AKIRA SAKIMA DAY

in Hawai'i, and do hereby order the lowering of the Hawai'i State flag to half-staff on all state and county buildings from sunrise to sunset in honor and memory of this outstanding citizen.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-seventh day of April 2007.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i