

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P. O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii
Phones: 743-3607, 78-124, 78-313
Victoria Cusøer Elaine Strouø

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

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Gen. Takemoto will receive Medal for Merit

The first American of Japanese descent to achieve the rank of brigadier general in U.S. forces was to be given the Hawaii National Guard's highest award at Fort Ruger today.

Brig. Gen. Francis S. Takemoto, who will retire today, will be presented with the Guard Medal for Merit for his work as commanding general of the 29th Infantry Brigade since October, 1963.

Gen. Takemoto was cited for helping reorganize and activate new units in the brigade.

He joined the Guard in 1946 and has a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, during World War II.

He is principal of Manoa Elementary School.