

## Tour to Spa Resort Hawaiians for Foreign Diplomats and Family Members

On Sunday, June 24, 2012, IHCSA took a group of foreign diplomats stationed in Japan and their family members to Spa Resort Hawaiians in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture. The tour, which was organized by IHCSA as a public-interest project to support the reconstruction of Fukushima Prefecture following the Great East Japan Earthquake, attracted the participation of a total of 48 foreign embassy officials and family members, including 1 ambassador, from 16 countries (Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Germany, India, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela).

The participants left Tokyo and headed for Iwaki aboard two buses. On the way they watched the *Hula Girls* movie, which was inspired by the founding of Spa Resort Hawaiians; special permission to show the movie was received from its distributor, J Cine Quanon, Inc.

On arrival at the resort, the participants, already true hula girl fans after watching the movie on the bus, were greeted by real hula girls. Welcoming addresses were given by representatives from the International Affairs Division of Fukushima Prefectural Government and the Department of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism of Iwaki City.

Inside the resort, the participants saw the Hula Museum and Polynesian Revue and then did as they pleased in their free time, which included enjoying the water slides, swimming pools, and natural hot spring baths.

The tour participants made such comments as “I will recommend people in my country and friends to visit Iwaki and Spa Resort Hawaiians” and “Next time I’ll stay overnight and enjoy myself at leisure!”



The tour was reported in such media as the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, *Fukushima Minyu*, *Iwaki Minpo*, and *Kanko Keizai Shimbun* newspapers.