Hiroaki Arita was born on September 12, 1919 in Paauilo, Hawaii. He was the son of Tomeichi and Tsuru (Sakamoto) Arita. He was educated at Paauilo Elementary and Intermediate School on Hawaii. Before entering the service he was a laborer for the Hamakua Mill Company on Hawaii.

On December 10, 1940, Hiroaki Arita was inducted into the Army at Paauilo, Hawaii (Serial No. 30 100 483). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu with the 299th Infantry Regiment and later at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and Camp Shelby, Mississippi with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company B. He saw service in the Hawaiian Islands, the continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific, American, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal. Pvt Hiroaki Arita was killed in action in Castelnuovo near Colli, Italy on November 30, 1943 in the Salerno to Cassino Campaign and is interred at the Veterans Cemetery, County of Hawaii.