I have come to Hawai‘i in order to build a “silver bridge.”

Until now, I have remained in Japan, building a “golden bridge” to unite Japan, but henceforward, I wish to build a bridge to bring the different countries of the world together through the harmony and love contained in Aikido.

I think that aiki, offspring of the martial arts, can unite the people of the world in harmony, in the true spirit of budo, enveloping the world in unchanging love.

Morihei Ueshiba
Founder of Aikido
document inviting Doshu to Aikido Celebration 2011.

Pictured here is the historic Dennis Oka - Mililani & Waialua Aikido Clubs
Alvin Onaka - Hawaii Kai Aikido Club
Kevin McGough - Kohala Aikiki
Peter McNally - Wago Enten Dojo
Gary Omori - Koshinkan
Mitsuo Adachi - Manoa Aikido Club
Herbert Kondo - Marine Aikido Club of Hawaii
Robert Aoyagi - Aikido of Honolulu

We are collectively working towards establishing the exact month and location of the event.

In February 1961, the Founder built a Silver Bridge between Japan and Hawaii.

October 7, 2009
Tokyo, Japan
Aikido World Headquarters
Moriteru Ueshiba, Aikido Doshu

Commemorating the Silver Bridge of Harmony between Japan and Hawai‘i
The 50th Anniversary of OSensei’s Visit to Hawaii
Aikido 2011 Celebration

Barbara Klein - Aikido of Hilo
Arthur May - Wago Enten Dojo
Wesley Shimokawa - Lihue Aikiki
Ray Tanaka
Glenn Yoshida - Aikido Renshinkan
Donald Moriyama - Pearl City Aikido Club

Without your help, this event would not have been possible without your personal, moral and financial commitment. The success of Aikido Celebration 2011 is due to your participation.

Thank you to Gary Hirata and Aikido of Honolulu who introduced the idea of Aikido Celebration 2011. Thank you to Alan Nagahisha who reached out to the Twenty Aikido sensei who signed the letter inviting San Daisusho to Hawaii for the commemorative event, “Aikido Celebration 2011.” To these Sensei and their members who helped initiate the organizing efforts and whose labor have brought Aikido Celebration 2011 to fruition, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

Aikido Celebration 2011 Officers & Committee Chairs
President.................Glen Yoshida
Vice President...........Gary Hirata
Treasurer..................Ron Tagami
Budget.....................John Clements
Community Outreach.....Alan Nagahisha
Event Banquet...........Craig Sumida
Ceremonies..............Bob & Barbara Klein
Master of Ceremonies....Randy Scoville
Funding / Sales..........Tom Markos, Glen Tango,
Greg Ushinoda, Hiroshi Kato
Logistics..................Hiroshi Kato, Sharon Gilbert,
Bill Stokton
Lunches / Refreshments..Todd & Leslie Fujikawa
Publicity..................Ric Noye
Safety / Security........Kevin & Leilani McGough
Seminar...................Gayne Sogi
Web / Registration......Chris Li
Seniors of Sacred Hearts Academy

Aikido Celebration 2011 Commemorative Program
The preparation of this brochure was a major effort on the part of many people.
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Graphic design............Alan Lew Design
Aikido quotes from Training with the Master, published by Shambhala, courtesy of John Stevens and Walther von Kremmer, www.aikidohawaii.org and Christopher Li
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Errors and omissions
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Aikido Celebration 2011 is an organization dedicated to the public commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first and only visit made to Hawai‘i by the founder of Aikido, OSensei Morhei Ueshiba. It is also an opportunity to recognize the efforts of the people in Hawai‘i and elsewhere who made that 1961 visit possible, and to perpetuate the practice of Aikido in Hawai‘i for future generations.

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A special thank you to our generous sponsors who had the vision and the faith to support our Aikido Celebration. Without your help, this event would not have been possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Makaha Nui Loa to all the Aikido members and friends representing Twenty Hawaii Aikido dojo as well as our many corporate and individual sponsors. An event such as this would not have been possible without your personal, moral and financial commitment. The success of Aikido Celebration 2011 is due to your participation.

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MESSAGE BY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN
YOSHIHIKO KAMO

On this occasion of the Aikido Celebration 2011, it is a pleasure for me to offer my congratulations as you celebrate fifty years of Aikido in Hawai‘i as well as to commemorate the 50th anniversary of OSensei Morihei Ueshiba's visit to the Hawaiian Islands. I would also like to extend a warm aloha and welcome to Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba and the various Aikidoka from around the world as you participate in this momentous celebration.

OSensei’s desire of visiting Hawai‘i to “build a silver bridge” between Japan and Hawai‘i truly promotes Aikido’s philosophy of extending harmony and peace through the martial art. Since his visit to Hawai‘i, Aikido, often translated as “the way of harmonious spirit,” has become a means of forming lasting relationships not only between Japan and Hawai‘i, but between Japan and other nations.

My best wishes go out to the organizing committee and practitioners of Aikido as you continue to uphold the philosophy of spreading peace and harmony throughout the world.

Yoshihiko Kamo
Consul General

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR PETER B. CARLISLE

It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest aloha to everyone gathered for the 50th anniversary commemoration of OSensei Morithei Ueshiba’s visit to our islands. The historic visit by Aikido’s founder in 1961 underscored Hawai‘i’s standing in Aikido and our cultural connection with Japan. OSensei Ueshiba’s visit to our islands highlighted the congruence between Aikido’s principles and the aloha spirit, and strengthened the bonds of friendship linking Japan and Hawai‘i.

Mahalo to Aikido Celebration 2011, the dojo and students throughout the state and the continental US for paying tribute to this historic event in our island’s history. We are honored to host Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, Waka Sensei Mitsuteru Ueshiba, whose participation in celebration; along with Seijuro Masuda Sensei, 8th Dan from the Aikikai Hombu Dojo, and Yoshimitsu Yamada Sensei, 8th Dan from the New York Aikikai, brings great distinction to this event.

On behalf of the people of the City and County of Honolulu, I extend best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable celebration.

Peter B. Carlisle
Mayor, City and County of Honolulu
“Always practice the Art of Peace in a vibrant and joyful manner.”

“A good stance and posture reflect a proper state of mind.”

“Failure is the key to success: Each mistake teaches us something.”
“The Purpose of training is to tighten up the slack, toughen the body, and polish the spirit.

“To injure an opponent is to injure yourself. To control aggression without inflicting injury is the Art of Peace.”

“A commemorative poster published by Tanabe City where OSensei was born. It features OSensei in the forests of Kumano.

“The Art of Peace is to fulfill that which is lacking.”
Mahalo to all the Sensei, Students, and Practitioners of Aikido for a half century of enriching Hawaii.

Here’s to the next 50 years.
Aikido Doshu
Moriteru Ueshiba Sensei
was born on April 2, 1951, in Tokyo, Japan. In a recent interview he recalled that, “A long time ago Hombu Dojo and the Ueshiba home were actually under the same roof. I grew up in a world of always seeing the Founder’s practice and the atmosphere of Aikido training. It was during college, however, that I seriously began to train. I liked Aikido practice and decided to do as much as I could to help my father preserve Kaiso’s (Morihei Ueshiba’s) legacy for the future.”

Mitsuteru Ueshiba
Waka Sensei
is the great-grandson of Aikido Founder Morihei Ueshiba. He was born in Tokyo in 1981 and is the Acting Dojo Head of the Ibaraki Branch Dojo and Assistant to the Dojo Head of Aikikai Hombu Dojo. He made his first instructional visit to Hawai‘i in February 2010.

Yoshimitsu Yamada Shihan
was born in 1938 in Tokyo, Japan. He became interested in Aikido through his father’s cousin, Tadashi Abe, who trained at the Aikikai Hombu Dojo and was a friend of Koichi Tohei. Yamada Sensei is president of the United States Aikido Federation and chairman of the Latin America Aikido Federation. He is the author of the book *Aikido Complete*, and has made multiple Aikido training tapes, including the *Power and the Basics* series, which outlines the requirements for rank testing of all levels.

Seijuro Masuda Shihan
was born in 1936 in Tokyo, Japan. In 1962 he started practicing under Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido. He is currently one of the senior instructors at the Aikikai Hombu Dojo. Masuda Sensei and his wife have been regular visitors to Hawai‘i for many years. An enthusiastic golfer, he enjoys his time on the golf links almost as much as he enjoys teaching Aikido.
AIKIDO MEMORIES
(The following memoir was written by Aikido of Honolulu Chief Instructor Robert Hiroshi Aoyagi prior to his passing. Aikido of Honolulu extends its deepest condolences to his family.)

Robert H. Aoyagi Shihan 1920 – 2010

I was born October 28, 1920 in Hookena on the Big Island. At the age of 18, I left home and traveled by the steamship Huna-ulu to Oahu. I taught English and shorthand at Phillips Business School. I married the love of my life, Dora Shiohira, then was drafted into the Army. After World War II, I worked at a service station in Kakaako; thereafter, Dora and I started our own service station.

At the age of 37, I began practicing Aikido in 1957 at the Shinonome Besso owned by Mr. Noriyasu Kagesa. It was very difficult to join the practice group because all prospective students were rigorously screened, but I was eventually allowed to join the Aikido group.

The Nishishiki Health System sponsored Koichi Tohei Sensei of Hombu Dojo in Japan to come to Hawaii and introduce Aikido in 1953. Hawaii Aiki Dojo was established as a statewide organization in 1957 by Noritio Fujikoa, Noriyasu Kagesa, Shigeru Tanabe, Michio Nakamura, Yukico Yamamoto, Yusuke Ando and Kazuto Sugimoto. Yamamoto Sensei was Chief Instructor. There were also head instructors of the various dojo on Oahu: Larry Hatori, Isao Yamamura, Antone Gonzales, Charles Takase, Takaji Ishida, and Ralph Glasstein. These were head instructors on the neighbor islands: Takashi Nonaka, Big Island, Shinichi Suzuki, Maui and Ichiro Ishii, Kauai.

Dr. Yorio Wakatake was instrumental in the selection and purchase of the property at 3224 Waialae Avenue. On June 26, 1960, Hawaii Aiki Kwa held a grand opening ceremony to build the first Aikido dojo outside of Japan. Dr. and Mrs. Wakatake, Mr. Bunukiho Goto, Mr. Kazuto Sugimoto, Mr. & Mrs. Katsumi Yano, Dora and myself were the Mortgage Guarantors for the property and building.

Honolulu Aiki Dojo (the official name of Waialae Dojo) was the headquarters for Hawaii Aiki Kwa. At the time, it was the largest Aikido Dojo in the world!

O Sensei Ueshiba Morihie traveled to Hawaii, and on March 12, 1961, dedicated the Honolulu Aiki Dojo during a grand opening ceremony. The Honolulu Aiki Dojo should be recognized in principle as Hawaii’s monument to O Sensei and Aikido.

I was honored to have personally received my Shoden Certificate from O Sensei.

On this 50th anniversary of O Sensei’s visit to Hawaii, I would also like to remember and honor all of my Hawaii Aikido colleagues: Dr. Yorio Wakatake, Takaji Ishida, Sadao Yoshioka, Richard Hirao, Howard Sato, Donald Moriyama, Thomas Ishihara, Kiyoshi Takata, Masaji Yamashita, George Chew, Dr. Dennis Teraoka, Nobu Sato, Don Shimazu, Dr. Mitsuo Adachi, Robert Kubo and Robert Teshima.

Many of those I mentioned are no longer with us. Dr. Yorio took me for karate lessons, taught me how to play the ukulele. In our practice, O Sensei would do our embu by OSensei and Yudansha from all islands. I had a pretty good vantage point, and what stands out in my memory was that this small bearded man, about 5’1” tall and 110 pounds held back six attackers, all the while sitting in seiza. Then Tamura Sensei was asked about the difference between being thrown by Tohei Sensei and O Sensei, he said when Tohei threw him he was still on Earth but O Sensei prayed at Haleakala, 1961

This document was edited for content.
On March 20, 1961, O Sensei arrived on the island of Hawai‘i with Chief Instructor at Hombu, Tokyo, Koichi Tohei, and O Sensei’s otomo Nobuyoshi Tamura, as well as Chief Instructor of Hawai‘i Aiki Kai, Yukizo Yamamoto. They were greeted by island dignitaries along with Big Island Aikidoka.

On March 23, a seminar was held at Konawaiina Gymnasium for Aikidoka. Later in the evening there was a demonstration. Another demonstration took place on March 24 at Honoka’a High School Gymnasium followed by a reception. People who attended these demonstrations were impressed by the seemingly effortless power of O Sensei.

After a day of sightseeing, the Aikido clubs from Hilo, Ola‘a and Honoka‘a came together for practice. At his class O Sensei practiced with the children and took falls for the young Aikidoka.

On Sunday the group toured the Volcano area. While they were driving, O Sensei mentioned that he felt something. When they reached the Jaeger Museum, they learned that there had been a small earthquake just at that time. They continued down to the ocean. When they stopped to view the scene, O Sensei warned some swimmers that there was a "hole" in the ocean. Surfers familiar with that spot verified that there was an undertow in the exact area.

The final demonstration was held in Hilo. A young girl was asked by Tohei Sensei to try to feel connected to the ground. When she did this no one could lift her. Takashi Nonaka Sensei remembers having a difficult time translating for O Sensei because of his references to Shinto and Omoto Kyo concepts.

OSensei enjoyed his visit to Hawai‘i as perhaps the Aloha Spirit embodied what Aikido was about and that the "Silver Bridge" should start here and branch throughout the world.

Contributed by Jamie Yugawa
OSensei’s Otomo on his 1961 visit to Hawai’i

Aikido Founder Morihei Ueshiba arrived at Honolulu International Airport on February 27th 1961 accompanied by two Otomo (attendants), Koichi Tohei and Nobuyoshi Tamura.

Koichi Tohei was born in Tokyo in 1920, but soon relocated to his home town in Tochigi prefecture. His father began to teach him Judo when he was nine years old – an attempt to strengthen him. He received his black belt in Judo at the age of 14 and continued his Judo studies when he returned to Tokyo in order to enter Keio University.

In 1939, Shohei Mori, one of Tohei’s sempai at the Judo club, told Tohei about a teacher with phenomenal strength. With a letter of introduction in hand from Mr. Mori, Tohei went to meet Morihei Ueshiba and become his student.

In less than half a year he became the founder’s representative (dairi) and, having yet to receive any official ranking in Aikido, was sent to instruct at the Nakano Police Academy and the private school of Shumei Okawa. He would study with Morihei Ueshiba for only one and half years before being sent overseas with the Japanese Army. It was only after he entered the army that he received his first rank in Aikido – a 5th dan. Tohei was demobilized in 1946 and returned to Japan to continue his studies in Aikido with Morihei Ueshiba and Shin Shin

When Tamura accompanied the Founder to Hawai’i in 1961, he was immediately nicknamed “The Stone Wall” by the local students who found themselves unable to move him.

In 1953, at the invitation of the Hawai’i branch of the Nishikai health system, Koichi Tohei travelled to Hawai’i to introduce Aikido to the Islands. Tohei returned a number of times over the following years, and built a thriving community of Aikido dojo throughout Hawai’i.

Nobuyoshi Tamura was born in Osaka in 1933, the son of a local Kendo instructor. After his father passed away in 1949 he was determined to become independent, but was often at a loss for a place to live. It happened that Seigo Yamaguchi, the first professional Aikido instructor in the Aikikai outside of the Ueshiba family, was returning to his hometown to get married, so he offered the young Tamura the use of his home for about a month. The month passed quickly and Tamura was soon looking for another place to stay, whereupon Yamaguchi suggested that he stay at Aikikai Hombu Dojo. When Tamura found out that he would be able to live at the Dojo for free he immediately entered Aikikai Hombu Dojo as an Uchi-Deshi in 1953.

At that time there were at most 14 or 15 students at Hombu Dojo. Although Ni-Dai Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba taught most of the classes, the Founder’s house was attached to the Dojo, and OSensei would appear often to demonstrate techniques or lecture at length.

Tamura would often accompany the Founder as his Otomo and often appears as the Founder’s Uke in early films from this period. When Tamura accompanied the Founder to Hawai’i in 1961, he was immediately nicknamed “The Stone Wall” by the local students who found themselves unable to move him in any way.

In 1964 Tamura married a fellow student from Aikikai Hombu Dojo. They departed on a honeymoon cruise; partially financed by performing Aikido demonstrations aboard ship. When the ship reached the final destination in France he decided to remain there teaching Aikido professionally, despite the fact that he could barely speak French at the time.

Over the next forty six years he became one of the leading figures in European Aikido and authored several books on the art. Nobyuoshi Tamura passed away on July 9th 2010, shortly after having accepted an invitation to teach at Aikido Celebration 2011 in Hawai’i.

Contributed by Chris Li
Over 50 Years of Tradition in Hawaii

Honolulu Plumbing Co. congratulates "Aikido Celebration 2011" for commemorating OSensei's visit to Hawaii.

Honolulu Plumbing Co. Ph. 808 847 - 5796 Glenn Y. Tango, President.

Aikikai Kona

Aikido of Hilo

Aikido of Honolulu
Front row (kneeling): Evan Fujiuchi, David Irick, Gary Hirata, Norman Kau, Robert Aoyagi Shihan, Cary Okimoto, Hicham Gane, Mark Hirokawa, David Withers, Viet Ngo; Second row: Tom Markos, Aileen Maypa, James Harris, Samantha Tsoi, Leon Harris, Mark Paulino, Brittany Gillis, Michael Hynihik, Gamick Oshino; Middle row standing: Daniel Atayaki, Alphonso Frett, Steve Murray, Craig Sumida, Joe Medina, Ernie Oshino, James Matsumura, Ivan Lee, Everett Wong; Back row standing: John Franklin, Rich Kuhlmann, Newton Uyema

DOJO PHOTOS
Hawai'i Betsuin Aikido Club
Front row: Robert Morishige, Andy White, Lionel Nagata, Gayne Sogi, Dave Miller, Michael Martin, Jamie Obrecht, Aviv Goldsmith; Second row (kneeling): Celeste Paul, Min Fang Choi, Meipo Fun Martin, Vickie Martin, Brian Beach, Devon Nugent, Peter Zalinski, Rima Reneschuck, Erwin Larens, Lucy Thomson, Valerie Barr, Kathleen O’Neill; Back row (standing): Walt Fanning, Cinny Fanning, Justin Kirby, Cody Kroll, Devin Floyd, John Cifani, Edward Borrego, Thomas Boggs, Vince Black, Paula Schank, Eric Otten, Ressa Charter, Fred Richards, David Hurbubise, Dave Street, Tom Tedesci, Yvonne Thewell, Carrie Campbell, Fred Rachford, Greg Harkless, Ed O’Connor, John Willey, Vic Williams, Michael Logan, Kevin Hersh, Ed Santos

Hawai'i Kai Aikido Club
Front row: Jensen Yoshimoto, Thomas Katsuyoshi, Iyun Kanemura, S. Don Shimazu, Shihan, Alvin T. Onaka, Alan S. Koida, Donald Ho; Back row: Kenji Yoda, Diana Ngeo, Stephanie On, Christopher Ho, Masa Koida, Steve Licari, Joseph Licari

Hawai'i Betsuin Aikido Club
Front row: Robert Morishige, Andy White, Lionel Nagata, Gayne Sogi, Wayne Ching, Eileen Yara, Larry Isobe; Back row: Ronny Lopez Jr., Daniel Cooper, Bernhard Bock, Travis Hong, Tod Fujioka, Lance Fujiweli, Kristina Gomotta, Shelley Lomongo, Lauri Hong, Kawakahi Amina; Missing: Hallett Hammatt, Ed Santos, Blaine Hedani, Peter Nakagawa, James Lowth
Ma–noa Aikido Club

Kohala Aikikai

Mānoa Aikido Club
Front Row: Megan Uyeno, Sean Uyeno, Hunter Nishikawa, Demetri Obathy, Anddrew Yi, Sarah Harada, Ben Tottori, Mathew Yi, Solomon Aragon; Hyatt Nakanishi, Mathew Matsumura; Second Row: Jordon Nagamine, Ryan Nagamine, Oliver Nishikawa, Lauren Nukoe, Cullen Takushi, Kathryn Harada, Julia Phung; Last Row: Cory Nishimoto, Kevin Lima, Aaron Young, Joseph Daughty, Basal Dunn, Melvin Pang, Steven Gerona, Bronson Liana, Darren Izumo, Mitsuo Adachi, Justin Gerona, Gary Pang, Brent Uyeno, Maudie Morales, Sheri Izumo, Rebecca Morales, Will Tottori, Isaiah Kalemikini, Evan Ching; Tyler Nishikawa, Evan Uyeno, Brighton Hayashida
The Aikido Ohana

Front row: Charlene Watanabe, Kelly Honbo, Luzar Souza, Leiren Oh, Jessica Vinson, Peter Vinson, Maluhiia Hirahara, Keely Uchida, Kisa Tamai, Kayla Uchida, Mei Arakaki, Brent Arakaki, Rancen Bello, Koko Tamai; Second Row: Daipyo Kaneshiro, Bill Doi, Chris Li, Glenn Tango, Alex Tripp, Alan Nagahisa, John Stevens, Eiko Sakamoto, Ron Tagami, Ric Noyelle; Back Row: Danny Asam, Francis Benevides, Alex Souza, John Jai Siruno, David Miyamoto, Lawrence Doi, Nobuko Napiewocki, Ken Noyele, Glenn Tanigawa, Hiroshi Kato, Valerie Pires, Dayna Kaneshiro, David Nakashima, Linda Albritton, Alan Kiesman, Sharon Takeyesu, Russell Uchida, Jonelle Oshiro, Courtney Oh, Matt Oshiro, Melissa Oshiro, Jackie Oshiro, Rory Enomoto

Marine Aikido Club of Hawai‘i
Rose Medeiros, Lee Barnhill, Herbert Kondo, Hiroshi Kato, Keoni Lee. Missing four members.
We welcome you to Servco Auto Honolulu, centrally located in Mapunapuna. Our 39,000-square-foot property allows us to showcase a wide selection of Toyotas. In addition, browse our new Suzuki and quality used cars at our newly opened Pre-Owned Center.

Although our dealership is state-of-the-art, you will find it warm and inviting, with comfortable seating areas and open-air displays reflective of a warm Hawaiian sense of place.

So if you’re shopping for a new or used automobile or just happen to be in the neighborhood, come visit us. Feel at home, at Servco Auto Honolulu.

Wego Enten Dojo
Front row: Codey Hongo, Arthur May, Peter McFally, Scott Wilson and Lisa Higuchi; Back row: Kristi Kusunoki, Susana Helm, Nick Tenney.

Waimea Dojo
Front row: Lokelani Case, Kaleo Case Jr., Mahealani Case, Keonaona Case; Second row: Kathleen Leffler, Kawena Case; Ka’ano’i Regidor; Standing: Gary Hoover, Kaleo Case, Barbara Klein, Robert Klein, Lynn Regidor; Missing: Sivan Najita

Windward Aikido Club
Front row: Malia Van Heukelem, Joy Kinzie, Bob Kinzie, Donna Tsukamoto; Back row: Joshua Chang, Brian Derbs, Joshua Taylor, Myles Olina, Urs Bauder, Hiroshi Kato
The art of Aikido is perpetuated by Aikidoka teaching and training new students, who themselves become the teachers of the future. This list recognizes a small group of those who have been practicing Aikido in Hawai’i for 30 years or more. Each respondent had the option of answering three questions:

A. What year did you start Aikido and at what dojo?
B. Who was your most memorable teacher?
C. What is your current dojo?

In the interest of maintaining our Aikido history to be as accurate and up to-date as possible, we ask that you help us by making your corrections, updates or additions online at www.aikidohawaii.org

Richard Hirao
A. 1955, Honolulu Aiki Kai
B. O Sensei, Kisshomaru Ueshiba, Koichi Tohei and Yukiso Yamamoto
C. Hawai’i Aiki Kai

Gary Hirata
A. 1965, Hawai’i Aiki Kai
B. Koichi Tohei Sensei
C. Aikido of Honolulu

Lawrence Doi
A. 1979
B. Rian Nagahisa Sensei
C. The Aikido Ohana

Kenneth Ganeku
A. 1975, Pearl City Aikido Club
B. Moriyama Sensei
C. Pearl City Aikido Club

Gary Hirata
A. 1965, Hawai’i Aiki Kai
B. Koichi Tohei Sensei
C. Aikido of Honolulu

John Ishihara
A. 1976, Nu’uanu Aikido Club
B. Sadao Yosiko Sensei
C. Nu’uanu Aikido Club

Steve Glanstein
A. 1963, Hawai’i Aiki Kai
B. Howard Sato Sensei and George Chew Sensei
C. Aiki Kai o Kona, Kailua Kona

Wayne Ching
A. 1981, Nu’uanu Aikido Club
B. Sadao Yosiko Sensei
C. Hawai’i Betsuin Aikido Club

Darren Izumo
A. 1969
B. Mitsuo Adachi Sensei
C. Mānoa Aikido Club

Hal Hammatt
A. 1981, Windward Aikido Club
B. Sadao Yosiko Sensei
C. Hawai’i Betsuin Aikido Club

Mitsuo Adachi
A. 1955, Hilo Aikido Dojo
B. C. Mānoa Aikido

Steve Glanstein
A. 1963, Hawai’i Aiki Kai
B. Howard Sato Sensei and George Chew Sensei
C. Aiki Kai o Kona, Kailua Kona

John Ishihara
A. 1976, Nu’uanu Aikido Club
B. Sadao Yosiko Sensei
C. Nu’uanu Aikido Club

Wayne Ching
A. 1981, Nu’uanu Aikido Club
B. Sadao Yosiko Sensei
C. Hawai’i Betsuin Aikido Club

Darren Izumo
A. 1969
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The Board of Directors and member companies of the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Hawaii wish to congratulate “Aikido Celebration 2011” on their commemorative event dedicated to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first and only visit to Hawaii by Morihei Ueshiba, the Founder of Aikido.

We join your group in honoring the “Silver Bridge of Harmony” between Japan and Hawaii.

Aloha and Mahalo,
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Congratulations to Aikido Celebration 2011

Aikido Renshikan
A Place to Polish the Spirit Through Aikido
Robert Aoyagi Sensei

We are the students and instructors, past and present, of Aikido of Honolulu. Aoyagi’s recent death has caused all of us to reflect on the things that are important in life. The values that have been taught to us, not only by family, but from others have influenced us greatly. One such person was Robert Aoyagi Shihan.

Aoyagi Sensei, you forced us to train, and train hard, to learn the art of Aikido, physically, mentally, and spiritually. You paved the way not only for us, but those who came before us, and through us, those of the future.

Most importantly you taught us about life: to tell right from wrong, and to help those in need. We will endeavor to pass on that which we have learned from you. For that, we will always be indebted to you.

Your spirit will always be with us. And for that, Sensei….Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.

Your humble students.

Takaji Ishida Sensei

Takaji Ishida was born in Niigata, Japan in 1906. He moved to Hawaii as a youth, and began working at the Waialua Agricultural Company in 1923. He was very interested in Judo, but Japanese martial arts were banned in Hawaii during the war years. In 1944, he overcame tremendous obstacles to get permission to conduct Judo classes. About 60 students trained under him at the Waialua Hongwanji Mission. He also taught Judo in Kahuku, Wahiawa, Millili and Kona.

When Koichi Tohei Sensei introduced Aikido to Hawaii’s Ishida Sensei was so impressed he began his study of Aikido. Ishida Sensei studied with OSensei in Japan, and shared OSensei’s teaching with his students in Hawaii.

Ishida Sensei was small in stature, but had a tremendous amount of ki. Students thrown by Ishida Sensei were amazed that a man his age had such a powerful technique. No matter how hard an uke held him, his technique was always done in a relaxed and smooth movement.

Ishida Sensei’s dedication to Aikido led him to form the Central Pacific Aikido Association. At the age of 85, Ishida Sensei was still teaching five nights a week at three different dojo. In January 1994 Ishida Sensei was awarded his 8th dan rank. In September of that year, both Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba and his son Moriteru Ueshiba (now Doshu) traveled to Hawaii and presented the formal certificate of 8th dan to Ishida Sensei.

Even as he grew older, Ishida Sensei’s appearance remained the same. He credited the Nishi Health System for his ability to teach into his late 80’s.

Although it has been 15 years since Ishida Sensei passed away, his influence on Aikido can still be felt. In this celebration of the 50th anniversary of OSensei’s visit to Hawaii, we should remember Ishida’s many contributions to Aikido in Hawaii.

Contributed by Dennis Oka and Don Kurihara
Mitsuo Adachi Sensei

Dr. Mitsuo Adachi is head instructor of Mānoa Aikido Club. He was born in 1925 in the plantation town of Papa‘aloa on Hawai‘i Island.

In early 1958 Mitsuo Adachi visited the Hilo Aikido Club and saw that the instructor was his classmate, Takashi Nonaka Sensei. He joined the club the next evening. Dr. Adachi had been studying Aikido for three years when OSensei visited Hawai‘i. At that time he held the rank of Ikyu. He remembers when he took ukemi for OSensei. It left him not knowing how and why he was thrown. He still cannot forget OSensei’s eyes. His eyes had a calm energy that was captivating — and then he threw you and smiled.

OSensei demonstrated that Aikido was enjoyable, yet had that deep intensity associated with martial arts. Today, when nage makes a nearly perfect throw, uke smiles to acknowledge that wonderful throw. After OSensei’s nage, we automatically came up smiling, trying to internalize what had happened — done so beautifully and effortlessly.

Adachi Sensei is still active teaching Aikido. He gives his instructors the freedom to be creative and independent, but always consistent with OSensei’s Aikido. His club also has incorporated a parent and child training in Aikido.

“To be thrown and not know how and why”: Adachi Sensei has been wrestling with this “koan” for nearly fifty years.

“There is no tournament in Aikido. This may be interpreted by the public that maybe Aikido is not a martial art. However, as one goes deeply into the essence of Aikido, one will understand why Aikido cannot have tournaments”. At Mānoa Aikido Club, Adachi Sensei places great emphasis of understanding the “ai” in Aikido.

Dr. Adachi had the pleasure of entertaining Kisshomaru Ueshiba Ni Dai Doshu at his home in Mountain View on the Big Island.

Sadao Yoshioka Sensei

Sadao Yoshioka Sensei (1924-1990), was Chief Instructor of the Nu‘uanu Aikido Club, Honolulu Aikido Dojo (Walai‘ae), and YBA Aikido Club, and founder of the Hawai‘i Aikido Federation. He began training in 1955 under Koichi Tohei Sensei. When OSensei came to Hawai‘i in 1961, Yoshioka Sensei was fortunate to spend much time with OSensei as his driver. In 1969 as Chief Instructor of Hawai‘i Aiki Kai, Yoshioka Sensei went to Japan to study for six weeks at Hombu Dojo. During this visit, OSensei invited him to his home in Iwama for personal instruction. Yoshioka Sensei reached the rank of 7th Dan.

Yoshioka Sensei was close friends with Ni Dai Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba, who first visited Hawai‘i in 1963 as Waka Sensei. At that time, Yoshioka Sensei served as his driver and translator. In 1989, when Nu‘uanu Aikido Club celebrated its 30th anniversary, Ni Dai Doshu came and presented Yoshioka Sensei with two pieces of calligraphy — one done by himself and one by OSensei.

In addition to teaching Aikido, Yoshioka Sensei regularly took his students to Mānoa Falls to meditate under the waterfall for misogi, ritual purification practices. He also took three groups of students to Japan to practice Aikido at Hombu Dojo and to learn about the culture.

One of Yoshioka Sensei’s memories of OSensei’s visit was being asked to push him as a test of his power. Although he tried his best he could not budge OSensei. Yoshioka Sensei told his students that he walked around to see if OSensei had a post behind him but there was nothing there. Yoshioka Sensei also remembers that OSensei told him “One candle can light thousands of candles. I can’t do it all, so I need others to help me.” Yoshioka Sensei urged his many students to carry out OSensei’s wishes to spread the flame of Aikido.

Contributed by Adachi Sensei

Contributed by John Ishihara
Robert Kubo Sensei

Robert Kubo Sensei is the chief instructor of the Kailua Aikido Club which he started in 1963, and Aikido Hawai‘i International (AHI). AHI is an association of about eight Aikido clubs in Hawai‘i, Nebraska, Florida, and California. Kubo Sensei has taught Aikido in Japan, Korea, Sweden, Poland, Canada and other countries. Kubo Sensei likes to refer to Kailua Aikido Club as his country dojo since it is situated on the windward side of O‘ahu. His club, and AHI are affiliated with Hombu Dojo, Japan.

In July 1965, at the urging of Meyer Goo Sensei, Ralph moved with his wife and five children to Hawai‘i for the purpose of continuing his development in Aikido. Ralph learned from many of the instructors teaching in Hawai‘i in the 1960’s. His most memorable Aikido instructor was Mitsuo “Koa” Kimura Sensei, who favored him as his Uke.

In 1984 he suffered a detached retina which slowly diminished his sight to only one eye that could only use a small part of his retina. Even so, he continued to teach, and amazed his students when he would come across the dojo to correct and instruct them, “seeing” subtle technical details. Glanstein Sensei was known for using and teaching ki awareness, flow, and timing. He emphasized a soft approach using ki and breath rather than muscle, although his koshinage did change the structure of the floor at his dojo. Once a month, Glanstein Sensei held a 6:00 AM class at Kailua beach focusing on the connection between the power of nature and human action. As a teacher, he always encouraged his students to attend Aikido seminars with other sensei. His mantra was: “Better to learn than not to learn.”

Glanstein Sensei taught and trained in Aikido until his death on January 27, 2000 at age 66. At that time he was 6th Dan and chief instructor of the Windward Aikido Club in Kane‘ohe. Windward Aikido Club classes are currently taught by his students.

Contributed by Glenn Tango

Ralph Glanstein Sensei

Ralph Glanstein was born in New York City in 1933. Before starting Aikido, he studied Judo, boxing, gymnastics and western fencing. In the early 1950’s he saw a television program featuring OSensei. This sparked his interest in the art and, with a small group of students he began practice under the direction of Yasuo Ohara Sensei in what later became the New York Aikikai.

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Contributed by Glenn Tango

Contributed by Debbi and Steve Glanstein and Joy Kinzie

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Kubo Sensei began his martial arts training in Judo at the age of 12 under Yukioso Yamamoto Sensei, and he later became Kubo Sensei’s Aikido instructor. Other instructors who have influenced Kubo Sensei’s style and philosophy are OSensei Morihei Ueshiba, Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba, Koichi Tohei Sensei, Shoji Nishio Sensei, Morihiro Saito Sensei, and Sadao Yoshioka Sensei. He has acknowledged Yasuo Kobayashi Sensei for supporting him over the years.

Over the years many Hawai‘i Aikidoka have trained with Kubo Sensei. His three children Kellyn, Todd, Jason and wife Eva have also trained with him.
Mitsuo "Koa" Kimura

Mitsuo Kimura was born in 1901 in Makaha Valley on O’ahu where his father was farming. He came to Aikido later in his life after suffering a heart attack in his 50th year. His first instructor was Koichi Tohei Sensei. Koa believed that it was his involvement in Aikido, starting at age 52, that prolonged his life, brought him vitality and power, and kept him healthy through his mid-90s. He practiced breathing exercises with discipline and dedication. He was known for his deep tissue massage and alignment of organs. He felt this adjusted a person’s balance with nature and the smooth, normal flow of the body’s function.

He completed the Hawai‘i State-wide instructor’s class in 1959. In 1961 Koa documented Osensei’s visit to Hawai‘i in a journal of 140 photographs (http://aikidohawaii.org/kimura.html). At the public demonstration at McKinley High School in 1961, Koa demonstrated randori. He was 60 years old at the time.

Throughout his life, Koa taught at many dojo in Hawai‘i including Pearl City and Windward Aikido Clubs. One of Koa’s students, Ralph Glanstein became Chief Instructor of Windward Aikido Club. Of Koa, his teacher, Glanstein Sensei said “Koa Kimura was deadly on the mat. He didn’t have to use force. He was always in the best position possible: force was generated by the position of the two bodies. And he had perfect timing. Koa Kimura always said ‘Timing is everything.’ he was great.”

Koa Kimura was not an intellectual, but his lifestyle encapsulated Aikido precepts: the concept of ki as his center, in line with the universe and with nature; his involvement with a martial art dedicated to withstand and divert any form of violence or aggression; and the idea of involvement with a martial art dedicated to withstand and divert any form of violence or aggression; and the idea of

Donald Moriyama

Moriyama Sensei began his study of Aikido in the early 1950’s under Kisshomaru Doshu, Koichi Tohei Sensei, Yukio Yamamoto Sensei and Mitsuo Kimura Sensei. When Osensei visited Hawai‘i in 1961, Moriyama Sensei had the honor of taking ukemi for him in a demonstration of Shihonage.

Moriyama first visited Osensei’s shrine in Iwama in 1974. Since then Moriyama Sensei and his students at Pearl City Aikido Dojo have regularly traveled to Iwama to further their training in Tai-ji-Tsu weapons under Morihiro Saito Sensei. Saito Sensei certified Moriyama Sensei in Aiki Ken and Aiki Jo instruction. Moriyama Sensei is the only certified Aikido weapons instructor on O’ahu.

For his civil service job, Moriyama Sensei moved to Misawa Japan with his wife Clara. There, he opened a dojo at Misawa Air Base. Moriyama Sensei was asked to serve as Dojo Cho at the Ippai Mori Dojo by its owner Mr. Hirota Kanaya. Members of the Aomori prefectural highway police division, college students, and residents of the area practiced there. Moriyama Sensei participated in the All Japan Self Defense Force Summer Camp in Ibaragi. This week-long training was taught by Hiroshi Isoyama.

Every April Moriyama Sensei returned to Iwama to attend the anniversary of Osensei’s death representing Hawaii’i at the ceremony.

Moriyama retired in 1993 and returned to O’ahu. He is currently Chief Instructor of the Pearl City Aikido Dojo. In 1996 Moriyama Sensei traveled to Japan to be awarded his promotion to 7th dan by Kisshomaru Doshu. He continues to share his passion and knowledge with his students at Pearl City as well as giving invited seminars in other dojo in Hawai‘i, Japan and the US mainland.

Aikido and You

I suspect that many aikidoka continue with their training because of Aikido’s life-changing and enhancing qualities. After all, who can deny the fact that they enjoy improved flexibility and muscle tone because of their Aikido training? The more you put into your practice, the more you get out of it.

However, did you notice that for you to practice Aikido, certain conditions must first be met? First, you must have a partner. Second, you must have a place to practice. And third, you must have an instructor to show you the way. Since you do not come equipped with these provisions yourself, they must be provided for you. The dues or fees that you pay are just like the rent you pay for your apartment or house; they cover the overhead expenses of operating a dojo. You do not pay for the instruction you receive. If you were paying for the instruction, you would be charged for each lesson rather than for monthly or annual dues.

What is happening in the dojo – which can be thought of as a banquet table – aikidoka are being “fed”, they are being nourished and are growing strong physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But only a few people are replenishing the banquet table, so it seems an important lesson is not being understood. If you receive, you must give back (yin and yang). The most important aspect of this hard lesson is that the more you give, the more you get back.

An Aikido dojo is not a vacuum. It is a group of people – a social family where we learn to care for each other. Other dojo are our extended family. We must care about them too. Do something for your own dojo without being asked.

Let’s get busy!

Contributed by Herbert Kondo Sensei

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MESSAGE FROM JIKC HAWAII

The instructors and students of Japan International Karate Center in Hawaii wish all the dojo of Aikido Celebration 2011 a successful and productive event. The martial arts ties between Japan and Hawaii are, of course, extensive and deep.

Our own founder, Kiyohisa Hirano, who passed away October 1, 2009, made his first trip to Hawaii in 1962, an event that our organization will celebrate next year. All the martial arts of Japan constitute a gift and a bridge to Hawaii and to the rest of the world.

Sincerely,
The Instructors of JIKC Hawaii

Soke Kiyohisa Hirano
Founder of JIKC
Circa 1962

The Spirit of Aloha Meets the Spirit of Aikido
Congratulations on 50 Years of Aikido in Hawaii since OSensei’s visit in 1961

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Erik Littenberg

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