

# Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu

## A century of Kendo in Hawaii



Rev. Kunisuke Sakai, 4th Guji of the shrine taken on May 25, 1929

Kendo, the way of the Sword, is the art of Japanese Fencing. Kendo is one of the oldest of the Japanese martial arts and is held in high regard as an important cultural legacy. Kendo has transcended its origins in Japan's feudal past to become a modern martial discipline that instills courtesy, humility, self-control and fighting spirit through mentally intense and physically rigorous training.

The sword has been a part of Japanese culture and appears in the Kojiki and the Nihon Shoki two of the oldest chronicles of Japanese history. By the end of the 12th century, feudalism had come of age and dominated Japan for several centuries. With military rule controlling the country, a new military class and their lifestyle called Bushido gained prominence. Bushido stressed the virtues of honor, bravery, loyalty, self discipline and stoical acceptance of death. The next great advance in the martial arts occurred during the late Muromachi period (1336-1568). This period of civil wars brought an increased demand and respect for men trained in the martial arts. Consequently, many schools of Kenjutsu arose, eventually numbering about 200.

Each was taught by a famous swordsman whose techniques earned him honor in battle. Real blades or hardwood swords without protective equipment were used in training resulting in many injuries. These schools continued to flourish through the Tokugawa period (1600-1868).

Kendo began to take its modern appearance during the late 18th century with the introduction of protective equipment: the *men*, *kote* and *do* and the use of the *shinai*, a bamboo sword. The use of the shinai and protective armor made possible the full delivery of blows without injury. This forced the establishment of new regulations and practice formats which set the foundation of modern Kendo.

a great decline with the Meiji Restoration in 1868. The Samurai class was abolished and the wearing of swords in public outlawed. Interest in Kendo was revived in 1887 when uprisings against the government showed the need for the training of police officers. Later the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) again encouraged an awareness of the martial spirit. Consequently in 1895, the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, an organization devoted to Kendo, Kyudo, Judo and Naginata was established.

In 1911, Kendo was officially introduced into the physical education curriculum of middle schools and in 1912, the Nihon Kendo Kata, a set of regulations for Kendo was published. In 1939 as Japan prepared for war, Kendo became a required course for all boys.

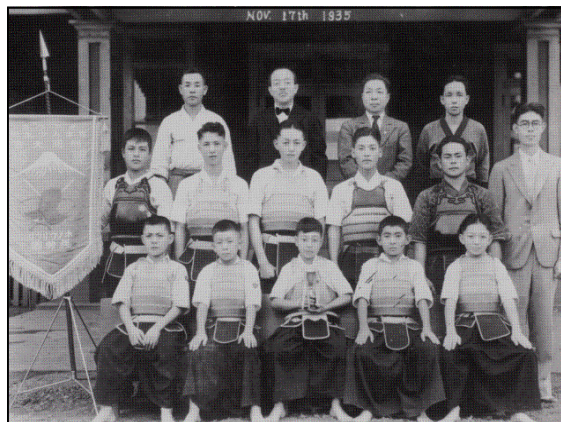


August 26, 1928: Prince Takamatsu (center in uniform) with the Jaapanese Imperial Navy training fleets

Kendo suffered



Circa 1915 Middle left: Dr. Umekichi Asahina  
Back: 2nd from right Yonematsu Sugiura, 3rd Shuji Mikami



First Youth Kendo Taikai sponsored by the Oahu Renmei Butokukai held at Kotohira Jinsha's Renbujo on November 27, 1935

After the war, Kendo was outlawed by the government and the Dai Nippon Buto-ku Kai was disbanded. However by 1952, a form of Kendo called *Shinai Kyogi* was introduced in the public schools, which excluded the militaristic and rougher aspects of prewar Kendo.

*Continued on Page 3*



# MAHALO SUPPORTERS

for your generous donations

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Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha — Hawaii Dazai-fu Tenmangu is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit church.  
All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## Honolulu Then....

The famous **Queen's Surf Restaurant and Barefoot Bar** in Waikiki was the most popular restaurant-nightclub in the 1950s and 1960s and home to legendary local performers Sterling Mossman and Kui Lee. It was demolished in 1971 to make way for park improvements.

In ancient times, there were two *heiau* located on the shoreline in this area. One was Kupalaha, which functioned in connection with the famed Papa'ena'ena heiau, where it is believed the last human sacrifice was made by Kamehameha I in Waikiki.

The other *heiau* was Makahauna, near the foot of Diamond Head, which was dedicated to Kanaloa, the god of the Seas and revered by fisherman and seamen.



**Hatsumiya Mairi** or **Baby Blessing** is an ancient tradition for those who have been blessed with the miracle of a child.

It is a special ritual that allows the new parents to convey appreciation to their ancestors and spirits of the land for the birth of their child and to express their wishes for the child to become good natured, kind hearted, true of spirit, respectful of all around and lead to their inner strengths to find their own path in life.

Male infants usually visit a shrine on the 31st day and girls on the 33rd day after birth. Since an infant's immune system is delicate, it is best to consult with your physician as to when your baby is able to venture outside of the home.



Congratulations to Yoshiro & Mihoko Mishima on the birth of their first child, Sara.

## SHRINE CALENDAR



### AUGUST 八月

- 6 8:30 am  
Clean-up & Festival Preparations 掃除と準備
- 7 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Education Blessing Festival 学業成就
- 14 3:00 pm  
Tsukinami-sai Monthly Service 月次祭
- 28 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Kapahulu Community Center Bon Dance

*Continued from Page 1*

The First recorded demonstration of Kendo in the U.S. was given by a Japanese delegation in 1860. As Japanese immigration increased, Kendo grew as a part of religious and social organizations. Despite several public demonstrations, kendo remained obscure for the next twenty years due to a combination of the expense of equipment and the lack of teachers.

In 1924, the Seattle Kendo Kai obtained a permanent home, and by 1940, Kendo had spread throughout the West Coast with over 10,000 practitioners in sixty dojos and 6 federations.

The first government contracted immigrants to Hawaii from Japan arrived in 1868. They brought with them the art of

Kendo to the islands. The Kendoists at the time were actual Samurai or students of Samurai teachers, so their technique was more of thrusting and cutting with a real Japanese sword, *katana*. In the 1880's, the immigrants were reported to have demonstrated these arts for King David Kalakaua. A year after the Sino-Japanese War (1895), a tournament was held on Oahu.

Hanzaemon Furuyama came to Hawaii in 1902 as an official Kendo teacher for the immigrants. Kendo became a requisite grade school curriculum in Japan in 1911 to help children develop physically and morally. In Hawaii, early in the twentieth century, legendary teachers like Yonematsu Sugiura and Shuji Mikami united the Kendoists into Hawaii Kobu Kai. By 1940, when the Hawaii branch of Dai Nippon Butoku Kai opened, Kendo was taught at the many Japanese schools and Dojo throughout the U.S. There were some 3,500 participants at a Taikai tournament that year.

Rev. Kunisuke Sakai, practitioner of the Itto-ryu style of Kendo arrived from Yamaguchi-ken in 1916 and became Guji of Lahaina Dai Jingu on Maui from 1937 until his deportation in 1945. He returned after the war on October 7, 1957 and became the fourth Guji or Chief Priest of Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha on August 15, 1959.

The shrine encouraged the practice of traditional arts and built a sumo dohyo and Renbujo training hall in 1936 to accommodate the growing popularity of sumo, kendo, karate and other Japanese martial arts.

Kendo was banned in Hawaii in 1941 at the onset of World War II, but Mikami Dojo re-opened in Kapahulu soon after the war in September of 1945. The Hawaii Budo Kyokai was established in 1947 with Shinichi Sugitaya as its first president. It was renamed as Hawaii Kendo Federation (HKF) in 1955 with Ietoshi Takahashi as its first President, then it became an affiliate of AJKF in

1959. Long time shrine member, Shigeo Yoshinaga also served as President of HKF. Mr. Terushi Ueno now serves as the President with about 400 registered members practicing Kendo and Iaido at various Dojo on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai and Maui.

The International Kendo Federation (IKF) was organized in 1970, becoming independent of AJKF in 1972. It became an affiliate organization of IKF in 1988. Every three years since 1970, the World Kendo Championships are held where Kendoists from all over the world gather to demonstrate their skills.

**Acknowledgements:** Most of the information in this narrative came from the Hawaii Kendo Federation website. Photos courtesy of Sensei Dick Teshima of the Hawaii Kendo Federation 50th Anniversary committee.



Back: Chûichi Furuyama, Torao Higuchi, Shigeo Yoshinaga, Yoshiharu Mikami, Kôichi Yasumitsu, Akeji Kozaki, Eddie Hall, Kazuma Furukawa, Shûji Mikami, Kanji Motoshige, Iyetoshi Takahashi Middle second from right: James Tamura



Rev. Sakai, Yuji Oasa, Susumu Fukagawa in 1930



Mikami Dojo in Kapahulu in 1951. Sensei Shigeo Yoshinaga standing in the back row on the far right.



Grand Masters of Kendo in Hawaii (from left): Sensei Akagi, Sensei Konishi, Sensei Okaji and Sensei Yoshinaga



## Welcome to Hawaii - Toyama-ken Jinja-cho Toyama-shi Shibu

Jinja Honcho (Association of Shinto Shrines) , formed in 1946 consists of approximately 80,000 Shinto shrines with a mission to guide the member shrines in aspects of administration, to preserve traditional Shinto rituals and festivals and to contribute in establishing everlasting world peace.

Jinja Honcho also has subsidiary offices or Jinjacho in each prefecture for local development. Member shrines of the Toyama-ken Jinjacho, Toyama-shi Shibu held a special service at the Neal Blaisdell Park on Saturday, June 11 in honor of the soldiers and civilians of both countries who died during the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Members also visited the shrine after a stop at the Kaneohe Marine Base and the Iwo Jima Memorial.



Sensei Takizawa with members of the Toyama-ken Jinjacho Toyama-shi Shibu



Asahi-no-Mai performed by one of the priests



Volunteers Kyoko Isa, Fumiko Nishimura & Bob Harada

## Diamond Head Lions Club

The Lions club is a group that comes together and shares a common interest in community service, supporting the Lions motto "We Serve."

There are nearly 1.4 million members of Lions clubs in 193 countries and is the world's largest service organization with numerous chapters in Hawaii.

Lions Club members experience a network of people who share common interests and a commitment to service that makes an impact on the local community. The Lions Club instills pride in commitment, offers opportunities for personal growth and leadership through mentoring and training programs, fellowship with worldwide members at International Convention and exchange programs.

Mahalo Diamond Head Lions Club for your donation and participation in the shrine's Pet Blessing Festival.



**We Serve**

For more information on membership, contact David Leong, President of the Honolulu Diamond Head Lions Club at 833-1633 or Bob Harada at 383-9383.



Shawn Nakano working the club's Shave Ice booth at the shrine's Pet Blessing Festival

## Local Kine Grindz - Saimin

Saimin is a food developed in and unique to Hawaii. Inspired by Japanese udon and Chinese mein, saimin was developed during Hawaii's plantation era. It is a soup dish of soft wheat egg noodles served in hot shrimp stock. Unlike udon, saimin noodles contain eggs and tend to crinkle when cooked. It is garnished with green onions, Chinese mustard cabbage, kamaboko, char siu, sliced SPAM and nori among other additions. Chinese wun tun, are usually added for special occasions. Saimin is composed of two Chinese words (細麵): *sai*, meaning thin and *mein*, meaning noodle. Saimin is recognized as the "state dish" of Hawaii, taking into consideration the various historic and cultural significances of its creation. The dish is composed of elements taken from each of the original sugarcane and pineapple plantation laborer ethnicities: Chinese,



Wun tun min from Palace Saimin in Kalihi



BBQ sticks are a must with saimin

Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Hawaiian and Portuguese.

As plantation laborers returned home to their families at night, each family would begin cooking dinner. Sometimes, such meals became communal as a means of saving money. Every family would offer an ingredient they were able to spare. The Filipino family might have some extra green onions growing in their yard, the Portuguese family might have leftover sausage, the Hawaiian family's chickens might have laid a couple extra eggs, the Korean family might have won bok unused from making kimchee. They would all throw their ingredients into the pot and share. It was through these communal meals that "Pidgin" was developed so they could all understand one another, borrowing words and phrases from each others' language and piecing them together. In some ways, saimin gave birth to Hawaii's notoriety as a

haven of multicultural harmony today.

Saimin was first popularized as a fast food dish at Honolulu Stadium on King and Isenberg streets. As local residents watched Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio or their favorite high school football teams, fans rushed to the snack stands for a warm bag of boiled peanuts and a cup of hot saimin. For the first time, hot dogs and hamburgers were beat out at an American ballpark as the choice spectator snack.

The types of places in Hawaii where saimin is served today is a testament to the popularity of the dish and its importance to the local residents. Only in Hawaii is saimin served at all sporting venues alongside hot dogs and hamburgers, at popular national fast food chains like McDonald's and Jack in the Box. A healthy alternative to most school meals, many public schools offer saimin as a regular option.

McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, became alerted of the saimin phenomenon in the islands in the late 1960s. Maurice Sullivan, legendary owner of Foodland Super Market purchased and opened the first McDonald's restaurant in Hawaii in 1968 at his grocery store. Sullivan wanted to serve his favorite meal, saimin at his McDonald's restaurants knowing all too well that his restaurants would boom with its introduction to the menu.

Sullivan invited owner Ray Kroc and executives from MacDonald's corporation for dinner at Washington Saimin and Boulevard Saimin. That night, Sullivan convinced Kroc to expand Macdonald's menu for the first time in its corporate history to include an ethnic dish.

Researchers worked extensively with Washington Saimin to develop a recipe for McDonald's Hawaii. Sullivan secured deals with a local saimin noodle factory, fishcake supplier and Aji-No-Moto, to manufacture a special soup base. Saimin is today one of McDonald's Hawaii restaurant's most popular menu items.



Palace Saimin on North King Street across the Kapalama Post Office



## Dazaifu Tenmangu

Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine, main shrine of over 6,000 Tenmangu shrines in Japan is dedicated to the great scholar and statesman, Sugawara Michizane, who died in the year 903 and subsequently became revered as a deity because of great wisdom and character.



Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka is now a place of pilgrimage for students and those in education, culture and the arts, especially calligraphy.

Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu was established in 1959 as a legitimate branch of Dazaifu Tenmangu Fukuoka and welcomes students of all ages and educators to join us in this special Education Blessing Festival.

学問の神さま、菅原道真公を祀る天満宮では、学業成就・受験合格の祈願を年間を通じて受け付けています。

御本殿に上がり祈願祭を受けるのが正式ですが、時間的余裕のない方のために8月7日 **てんじんさん学業成就** を執り行います。

どなたもご自由にご参列いただけますのでお気軽にお出かけください。

神社では **てんじん**

**さん学業成就** の祈願用紙を本殿の御内陣にお納めし、朝夕に祈願祭を斎行し、勉学の上達・健康を御祈り致します。予約は不要です。



## Education Blessing Festival

# てんじんさん学業成就

## August 7, 2005

### 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Back to School season is a time filled with capturing the last days of summer, assembling school supplies, coordinating new wardrobes and adjusting to new schedules. This is a time that brings about a variety of emotions for parents, teachers and students as a new school year begins.

Hawaii Kotohira Jinsha – Hawaii Dazaifu Tenmangu offers a special blessing steeped in ancient tradition honoring students of all ages so they may enjoy learning, take delight in new discoveries and persevere in their studies.

The blessing will include a thanksgiving for the opportunity to learn and a thanksgiving for all teachers who inspire and help us to learn.

Receive a **complimentary** blessing any time between **10:00 am** and **2:00 pm**. Reservations are not required.



## We need your kokua

For those who would like to volunteer to help out in this special event, the following opportunities are available:

- Clean up and Preparations - Saturday, 8/6/05 8:30 am
  - Day of the event - Sunday 8/7/05 8:00 am
- Greeters, concierge, omamori booth, traffic control, take down and clean up

For more info, please call **Axel Obara** at **721-2935** or **Bob Harada** at **383-9383**