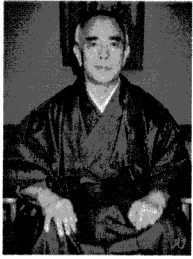


The History of the Nuuanu Aikido Club



Tohei Sensei

Aikido was first introduced outside of Japan in Hawaii by Koichi Tohei Sensei in 1953. By the following year there were about 50 Aikido students in Hawaii. Yukiso Yamamoto Sensei was the chief instructor, assisted by Isao Takahashi Sensei and Sugimoto Sensei. Sadao Yoshioka Sensei began Aikido in 1955 at the Young Buddhist Association (YBA) of Honolulu. By 1958, there were about 100 beginners and advanced

students on Oahu. In 1959, Yamamoto Sensei opened the first branch of Hawaii Aiki Kai at the old Nuuanu YMCA building at the corner of Vineyard Boulevard and Pali Highway, where the parking lot for Longs Drugs and Safeway supermarket now sits. Yoshioka Sensei was appointed assistant instructor at the YMCA.

In 1960 Yamamoto Sensei was transferred to the newly built Waialae Avenue dojo as chief instructor. Yoshioka Sensei continued conducting classes in the boxing ring at the old YMCA.

On the recommendation of Koichi Tohei Sensei, Yoshioka Sensei went to Japan for intensive Aikido training for six weeks in 1967. One day O-Sensei asked Yoshioka Sensei to be his otomo and accompany him to his home in the country at Iwama. When they arrived, Yoshioka Sensei was invited into O-Sensei's home to have tea and sake with the Founder. O-Sensei also put on a demonstration for Yoshioka Sensei at the Aiki Shrine.



Yoshioka Sensei

In 1970 Yukiso Yamamoto Sensei retired as chief instructor of Waialae Dojo, and Yoshioka Sensei was appointed to the position. In 1970, Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba awarded Yoshioka Sensei the title of Shihan. In 1979, Yoshioka Sensei returned to Nuuanu YMCA.

For several years beginning in 1979, the Nuuanu Aikido Club held annual Aikido training sessions lasting three days at Camp Paumalu in the mountains above Waimea on the north shore of the island of Oahu. Yoshioka Sensei also opened branch dojos at St. Louis High School (1982) and YBA of Honolulu (1984).



Yamamoto Sensei



Sato Sensei

Nuuanu Aikido Club adult and junior members have participated in public demonstrations at the Ala Moana Center, Boy Scouts of Hawaii Makahiki, and Bishop Museum. These demonstrations help students develop confidence and expose the philosophy and techniques of Aikido to the general public.

Nuuanu Aikido Club members have studied various aspects of Japanese culture, in addition to Aikido philosophy and techniques. Since 1963, Nuuanu Aikido Club members have been going to Manoa falls for misogi training. In 1980, the Nuuanu Aikido Club began pounding mochi for use in the first training of the New Year at Kagami Biraki. In 1980, 1985 and 1988, Yoshioka Sensei conducted tours to Japan to expose students to Japanese history and culture. During these tours, Nuuanu Aikido Club members have been privileged to visit the home of Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba and receive instruction at the Headquarters Dojo in Tokyo.

In 1987, the Hawaii Aikido Federation (HAF) was formed to continue to spread Aikido in Hawaii, with the Nuuanu and YBA dojos as the first members. The first HAF seminar was held at the YBA of Honolulu in February.

In August 1988, Yoshioka Sensei and members of Nuuanu Aikido Club visited Japan for the Fifth International Aikido Federation Congress and General Assembly at Tanabe, the founder's birthplace. The city erected a statue of O-Sensei, in Ogigahama Park. At the unveiling ceremony, Yoshioka Sensei received a bronze replica of the statue in recognition of his efforts to spread Aikido and its philosophy in Hawaii.

In 1989, the Nuuanu Aikido Club celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba attended and conducted a seminar. The Club held a dinner to celebrate the occasion.

On January 19, 1990, Yoshioka Sensei passed away. Assistant chief instructor Haruo Sato became chief instructor. Upon Sato Sensei's retirement in 1993, Randolph Scoville became chief instructor.

From the beginning of Nuuanu Aikido Club, the purpose of training has remained the same. O-Sensei taught that one candle can light thousands. Through Aikido we receive the light of harmony with nature and pass it on to others. The world grows brighter and brighter until we can all see the truth some day.



Scoville Sensei