

Wahiawa Kendo Club Bulletin - March 2026

We had 33 participants and 26 chaperons from Hawaii to attend 62nd Steveston Kendo Club Tournament on Saturday, February 21 in the suburb of Vancouver, Canada. They had record entries of 380 including all of Canada, Washington and Oregon States as well as Northern and Southern California besides Hawaii. Hawaii participants did well despite not being used to cold weather. Brandyn Matsumoto came in 3rd in 3 Dan division. One of Hawaii Children Teams consisted of Kyouka Lim, Kiyomi Manuel, Kenzen Hino, Carter Goodin and Aura Arios came in 3rd. They had a very close semi-final matches, resulted in the match between representatives one point sudden death match. In Children's 10 Years and Under Division, Yujin Ahn was 2nd and Rhyse Tolentino with Brook Arios captured 3rd places. Congratulations to all of them. I was very happy and encouraged by parents' and younger sensei's support and dedication. Prepare and plan for the next year tournament. Touring and shopping was fun.

We were very happy to be informed that Steven Colter Sensei passed 6 Dan examination in Fukuoka on Saturday, February 28. He was very focused and determined. I was glad that I had been with him throughout of his efforts. I felt like that I was the one who succeeded.

Kenshikan Kendo Club is hosting its annual tournament on Sunday, March 15 at Manoa District Park Gym. We only have one person participating from our dojo. But, many will go, watch and help the tournament. Kamiya Akihiro Sensei and Ugajin Toru Sensei, both Kyoshi 7 Dan from Tokyo as well as Ugajin Sensei's son Naoya will be there to observe and assist the tournament. There will be 2 Kendo Equipment Vendors at the site. If you need some items, go and check with them. Items need measurements, contact vendors before hand so that they can bring correct sized items.

Some of Hawaii students are participating in Torrance Kendo Dojo 51 Years Anniversary Tournament on Saturday, March 21 in California. They are Eiji Lim, Kyouka Lim, Kenzen Hino, Carter Goodin, Maddy Goodin and Abby Mejia coached by Chris Goodin Sensei. Good luck to them. Make friends and enjoy the trip.

I found out that Tadamasu Miki Sensei, Kyoshi 7 Dan, who visited Lihue Kauai, Hawaii Kendo Federation Honbu Dojo (2/1) and our Dojo (2/2) with Hara Naofumi Sensei, Kyoshi 8 Dan was among one of 7 female Kenshi's passed 1st stage of Kendo 8 Dan examination in 2026. She was a classmate of Tokai University professor Mayumi Otsuka Sensei when she attended Tokai University. She is a role model for female kenshis to show female kenshis can be as good as her and other ladies.

To our club members, we are collecting Hawaii Kendo Federation and our club dues now for year 2026. Let me know if you are to maintain your membership by the middle of March though you may not have submitted dues yet.

I was surprised what Iai-do Hanshi 8 Dan Yamashibu Kazunori Sensei said at our Dojo during his seminar. He said that he asks his students their honest and candid opinions after his Iai-do performance. He said that he could correct and improve his performance from their opinions. He has the attitude of “我以外皆師, Ware Igai Mina Shi,” Others are all my teachers.

He accomplished Hanshi title already. But, he still maintains motivation to improve himself. I stop asking others what is wrong with my kendo or what I can improve because lower rank people are reluctant to express criticism. I have to find those by myself without some advices.

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