

Wahiawa Kendo Club Bulletin - May 2023

We had a sad and shocking news on Wednesday, April 12. Andy Fujimoto Sensei passed away suddenly at his home. I am still grieving as I was with him like my own son from his childhood. My younger son, David, who is 1 year older than him grew up with him doing kendo and they roomed together at University of Hawaii dormitory. His funeral service is at Nuuanu Memorial Park & Mortuary on May 11, Visitation 5 PM and Service 6 PM. Rest in Peace, Andy. We miss you so much.

Ogawa Kingo Sensei from Kurume, Fukuoka, was with us in Hawaii. His last visit was November 2022. He was at Kenshikan Dojo on April 15, 18 and 19. He came to Honbu Dojo on April 16. He is strong in Kendo. He is admirable for what he says about kendo and his proper kendo protocols.

Mrs. Seiko Wang from Fukuoka brought her Kendo equipment for only 1 practice at Meikyokan Dojo in the morning of Friday, April 21 during her 3 day business trip in Hawaii. I was very impressed by her dedication to Kendo as well as her Kendo caliber.

Yamazaki Masaru Sensei, Hanshi 8 Dan from Aichi, is coming to Hawaii for just 2 nights and 3 days. He arrives in Honolulu on Tuesday, May 9 and going to Kenshikan Dojo that night. Next day, Wednesday May 10, he is coming to our dojo in Wahiawa, then he goes back to Japan on Thursday May 11 morning. I called him an "Iron Man." Appears to be that all Hanshi 8 Dan are iron men. Nowadays, it is very rare to have Hanshi 8 Dan Senseis visit Hawaii, Kenshikan Dojo and Wahiawa Kendo Club extend invitations to all Hawaii kenshis to come practice and/or observe.

Leeward Oahu Kendo Tournament is on Sunday, June 25 at Mililani District Park Gym. Official invitation will be sent to dojos soon. Mark your calendar and plan to participate or watch.

Hawaii Kendo Federation 1 Kyu and Dan examination will be on Sunday, July 2. If you are eligible for next rank, prepare and take the examination. That is why you are practicing as much as possible with your busy schedule.

Wahiawa Kendo Club added Monday night practice along with traditional Wednesday practice since April for people to have more opportunity to practice. If you cannot come to a practice, it is good to have a make-up day.

I saw TV news which showed a guy complaining and yelling over crying baby in his airplane cabin. His yelling was louder than baby's cry. A fellow passenger was grinning over this guy's rage. This guy never had a slightest notion to think about his baby era traveling with his parents on airplanes. Did he sleep like an angel all the way to destinations? Probably he had louder cry than this baby on board. Also some complain semi-Alzheimer stricken elders' odd behaviors. If people get to think that we will be just like that when we get old, we may act differently with more patience and compassion. Kendo training will teach us how to take care of both young and older ones.

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Club Website - www.wahiawakendoclub.com