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# Maui Ki-Aikido

Spring 2001

www.mauikiaikido.org

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Shinichi Tohei Sensei, shown here teaching at "Aikido Maui 2001" in March, gave a speech and Ki Barai blessing at the Grand Opening of the Shunshinkan Dojo.

## Opening the Shunshinkan Dojo

by Christopher Curtis Sensei

On Saturday, March 4, 2001, Shinichi Tohei Sensei offered a powerful and moving Ki Barai in blessing our new Shunshinkan Dojo on Maui. This was the culmination of many years of heartfelt effort.

Six years ago, when we first realized that our beloved old termite-eaten dojo was going to have to be replaced, we were in a state of collective shock. One evening, when I was feeling particularly attached to our old building that was soon to be torn down, Suzuki Sensei pointed out to me that a dojo is not made of wood and mats. "A dojo is created out of the spirit of the instructors and students who practice there. When we tear this old building down and build the new one" he said, "nothing will be missing. The kiai will still remain, because it goes where we go."

This statement turned out to be truer than we could have imagined. This new dojo embodies the spirit of sacrifice and perseverance of everyone involved. We now train in a dojo that is constructed literally from the good will of the members and the community at large.

And I want to say that none of this could ever have taken place without our teacher on Maui, Shinichi Suzuki Sensei. Throughout the difficult process of obtaining financing and permits for this project, over and over again, when a new and apparently insurmountable

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## My Time With Tohei Sensei

by Shinichi Suzuki Sensei

I first met Koichi Tohei Sensei in 1953. The Nishi Kai of Hawaii invited Tohei Sensei to come here to teach Aikido. When I saw Tohei Sensei for the first time, I was struck by the incredible calmness and clarity of his eyes. I knew that he was an extraordinary human being, and that I should begin training with him immediately.

At this time, I was a police officer with the Maui Police Department. Tohei Sensei had agreed to teach the police, free of charge, for one month. During this initial teaching period, and subsequent visits, Tohei Sensei personally taught me police self defense techniques. I have taught those same techniques to every Maui Police Recruit classes through the years.

On Tohei Sensei's second visit, in 1955, he taught me Ki Breathing and a deeper understanding of the principles of Ki and Aikido. I spent hours alone with Tohei Sensei, during which time he shared his special insights and kokyū. I am very grateful and thankful for these early teachings, which had a profound effect on me, and changed my life for the better.

The Maui Aikido Club originally organized in 1953. The four principle men were: Seichi Tabata (1<sup>st</sup> President), Kenneth Taguchi (Asst. Chief Instructor), Susumu Furukawa (Lahaina Instructor), and Shinichi Suzuki (Chief Instructor).

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Shinichi Suzuki Sensei and Master Koichi Tohei on Maui, during our 1993 seminar, which was taught by Tohei Sensei.



Participants in the adult upcountry class held every Tuesday night at the Tavares Community Center in Pukalani.

## AIKIDO UPCOUNTRY

Did you know that Maui Ki-Aikido offers two Upcountry classes? They are held on Tuesdays at the Tavares (Pukalani) Community Center. Joni Jackson Sensei instructs children from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Beginner and intermediate adults are taught from 7:00 to 9:30 PM by Christopher Curtis Sensei. Both instructors are assisted by Chris Barence and Angelo Lee. As in our Wailuku dojo, new members are accepted at all times, and the public is welcome to observe the classes.



Liane Nakamae and Ryan Matsuda were among children and adults promoted after Ki, kyu and dan testing held May 6-11.



Warren Gibson, who was promoted to Shodan May 11, is shown throwing Angelo Lee.

### Opening . . . continued from page 1

obstruction would appear in our way, we found that someone whose life Suzuki Sensei has touched, would come to the rescue. Because of so many years of dedicated service to the people of Maui, Suzuki Sensei has built a network of support in this community. And it wasn't until we were forced to call upon others for help, that we realized the incredible depth of that support and good will.

And finally, I want to thank Koichi Tohei Sensei for coming here to Maui to begin with, way back in 1953. Because, of course, without him, none of this would have even taken place at all. We are grateful to him for having the insight to select Suzuki Sensei to head up the fledgling Maui Dojo. We appreciate the encouragement he has always given to Suzuki Sensei, the inspiration that he has always been to him, and the special spirit and support that he has always shown to us all at Maui Ki-Aikido.

The very special blessing, the powerful and inspirational seminar taught by Shinichi Tohei Sensei and Yutaka Otsuka Sensei, the guests from around the globe; all of these gifts have combined to provide us on Maui with a peak experience in our lives. Thanks to you all for being a part of this great event.



Miss Sachiko Kakiuchi and Shinichi Tohei Sensei will be married in October, 2001. World Camp participants are invited to their wedding reception. Aikido Maui 2001 participants enjoyed getting to know Sachiko-san when she accompanied Waka Sensei and Yutaka Otsuka Sensei to our seminar in March.

*My Time . . . continued from page 1*

We constructed our first dojo on Market Street in Wailuku in 1960. This dojo was built entirely with donated materials and with labor donated by the students and friends of the Maui Aikido Club. This dojo was blessed by Morihei Ueshiba Sensei in 1961.

In the early years, there were many dojos throughout Maui County. However, today the training is centralized in the main Wailuku dojo. In 1996, at the request of the Upcountry residents of Maui, we opened a dojo in Pukalani, headed by Chris Curtis Sensei, which is still going strong.

During the 1990's, our old dojo on Market Street was gradually destroyed by termites. Beginning in 1996, we put on a massive fund raising campaign, and, thanks to many friends and supporters, were able to construct a completely new dojo, on the same grounds as the old one. The man directly responsible for the fund raising, planning, building and landscaping was Christopher Curtis Sensei, Chief Instructor of Hawaii Ki Federation, and my student of 27 years. This new dojo should last for many years to come.

I am very grateful to Tohei Sensei for all of his teachings of Ki and Aikido throughout the years. Everything I know about Ki and Aikido I owe to my teacher Tohei Sensei.

Thank you, Tohei Sensei.



Our beautiful, new sign over the front door says "Shunshinkan." The name was created and given us by Master Koichi Tohei. Based on Suzuki Sensei's name, it refers to Suzuki Sensei's leadership and dedication.

Tohei Sensei's original calligraphy, from which the wooden sign was cut, can be seen framed inside the dojo. Maui Ki-Aikido members feel blessed by our dojo's new name and the significance behind it.



## Public Aikido Demonstration June 9

Christopher Curtis Sensei and adults and children of Maui Ki-Aikido will demonstrate Aikido arts at the Paia Rinzaï Zen Mission June 9. The demonstration is in conjunction with the mission's celebration of the Maui Okinawan Festival, sponsored by the Okinawan Kenjin Kai, and will take place from 1:45 pm to 2:30 at the outdoor stage. The public is invited.



## Book Order Form

Ki-Aikido on Maui--A Training Manual (3rd ed.) by Christopher Curtis is now available for purchase. To order, please fill out the form below and fax or mail it to:

Maui Ki-Aikido  
P.O. Box 724  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Ph Fax (808) 244-5165

If you would like more information about the book

please email us at: [holamaui@maui.net](mailto:holamaui@maui.net)

or visit our web site: [mauikiaikido.org](http://mauikiaikido.org)

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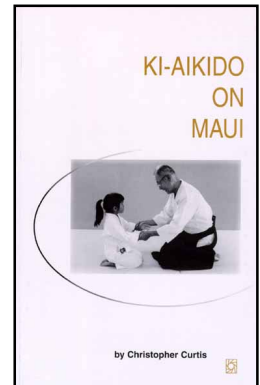
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The 55th Maui Police Department Recruit Class that recently completed training with Suzuki Sensei was one of the largest MPD classes ever to train in the dojo. Suzuki Sensei has been teaching each new recruit class for 46 years.

## New Introductory Course Offered

Maui Ki-Aikido will offer a beginners' introductory Aikido course taught by Christopher Curtis Sensei on four Thursdays from July 5 to 26 at the Shunshinkan Dojo. The total cost for the sessions is \$40. Tohei Sensei says, "Aikido is a discipline to make the heart of nature our own heart, to understand love for all things, and to become one with nature." During this four-week introductory course, we cover the foundation of Aikido; where it came from, what the essential aspects of it are, why we do it, what is ultimately involved from a personal point of view. It gives the student a chance to begin training with a group of students on a similar level of experience, which seems to make a big difference to many beginners. Each of the four classes deals with one of the four basic principles of Aikido: 1) Keep One Point, 2) Relax Completely, 3) Keep Weight Underside, and 4) Extend Ki. Everyone will learn the basics of sitting, standing, walking, throwing, and taking falls with mind and body unified.

For more information, call the dojo at 244-5165.

## Hawaii Ki Federation 2001 Seminar Schedule

June 22,23,24 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)	Hanapepe Dojo, Kauai Dean Mayer - Head Instructor
Sept. 21, 22, 23 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)	Lokahi Dojo, Oahu Clayton Naluai - Head Instructor
Dec. 7, 8, 9 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)	Hilo Dojo, Big Island Takashi Nonaka - Head Instructor

All seminars taught by Christopher Curtis Sensei, Chief Instructor, HKF

COST per seminar: \$25 members \$40 non-members

Maui Ki-Aikido  
P.O. Box 724  
Wailuku, HI 96793

address correction requested

## Hawaii Ki Federation's Home on the Web

The Hawaii Ki Federation has a new tool for all members. An "intranet" site has been created which allows members to communicate, post questions or discussion points, read calendar events, and access the "Aikido Links." This is a great tool, a super communication and organizing device. If you would like to join the intranet web site, please email the following information:

Name	Dojo affiliation	email address
to Leil Koch, email address: <aceman@maui.net>. Please type "Hawaii Ki Federation Membership" in the Subject line. You will receive an invitation to join with passwords, etc.		