

## **Matthew Wong's visit to Aikido of Honolulu in July 2008**

Dear Nagai Sensei and members of Doyukai,

During my vacation to Honolulu in July 2008, I visited and practiced for a few days at Aikido of Honolulu in Hawaii, USA. This is a very special place for Aikikai because this was where O Sensei visited and conducted classes in 1961 during his visit to the United States. Aikido of Honolulu also has a special place in my heart because this was also where I first started learning Aikido.



Aikido of Honolulu is located on 3224 Waialae Avenue. A huge dojo (more than 5,000 sq feet) with lockers rooms and a few parking space located on the lower level.

Upon entering the dojo, I felt a sense of peace. I was soon greeted by Robert Aoyagi Shihan (dressed in blue), 7<sup>th</sup> Dan of Aikido Aikikai. I introduced myself and told him that I am currently a student of Nagai Sensei from Hong Kong. He was very friendly and said it was okay for me to practice with one of his most senior students teaching the class.



Before class started, I saw Aoyagi Shihan in the locker room. Although he wasn't teaching class that day, we sat down and talked about the dojo and his love of Aikido. It was a good 15 minutes and a very memorable one!



Although my visit was short, I managed to practice 3 times while I was there. It was a very interesting experience and one that I will never forget.



Definitely take the opportunity to visit other dojos around the world when you have time.