

Center for Okinawan Studies Lecture Series

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Karate in the Ryukyu Kingdom, Okinawa Prefecture, and Hawaii

How is Okinawan Culture Spread through Karate?



Learn about the origins of Karate (Tudi, "Tang or China" Hand) among members of the highest levels of Ryukyuan society. Karate was part of the upbringing of selected sons of noble and samurai families who were trained to become bushi, cultured gentlemen. Based largely on Chinese martial arts and values, Karate was usually taught secretly or in private.

About twenty years after the Ryukyu Kingdom was abolished and Okinawa became a prefecture (1879), Karate became a part of the public school curriculum. Taught publicly and to a large number of students for the first time, Karate had to adapt to Japanese values and objectives. But the old form of Karate still existed with the new. Explore why the myth of Karate being developed by Okinawan farmers and peasants was spread in Japan... and still exists today.

Karate came to Hawaii with the very first Okinawan immigrants starting in 1900. Originally limited to members of the Okinawan community, the art is now widely practiced by students of all ethnic groups. Through Karate training, students are provided an opportunity to learn about Okinawan history and culture.



Speakers: Sensei Pat Nakata (Okinawa Shorin-Ryu Karate Association) & Charles C. Goodin (Hawaii Karate Museum)
Date: February 9, 2012 (Thursday)
Time: 3:00-4:30 pm
Location: Moore Hall 319 (Tokioka Room)

Event is free and open to the public.
For more information or disability access, please contact:
Center for Okinawan Studies, tel. 956-0902 / 956-5754
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