

Questions for the proposers of the Kyudojo at Mau'umae Park

1. How many days per year do you expect the clubhouse to be open for public activities? Please break this down by: **We can only respond with regard to kyudo operations and this is initial projection for first year operation. After that will adjust as demand and instructor base grows**

- (a) Open house / public exhibition. Upon opening and then 2X/annually
- (b) Open shooting. one four 4 hour session/weekly
- (c) Lessons. One four hour session weekly or two 2 hours sessions weekly
- (d) Other uses for the clubhouse.

There are 3 areas of the facility that I see as venues that the public can utilized. The main shooting gallery is about 1,800 sq. ft and is just a large, wooden floor open space. This would be suitable for any kind of physical activity as long as no shoes are worn (damages wood) . The second are is the meeting room with kitchen facility, this can easily handle small groups up to 25 – 30 and would work well for all kinds of community groups . Good examples can be seen at the Kilauea District Park website:

<https://web5.hnl.info/pros-parks/parks/details/59570ad5e4ef9fe84fea455f>)

and Makiki Park website

<https://web5.hnl.info/pros-parks/parks/details/59570ad5e4ef9fe84fea45b5>)

where users include: Seniors Club, MaJong group, Chair exercise group, ukulele classes, English classes, etc. The final area is the large grass lawn between the target house and the shooting gallery, This could host small community entertainment events, outdoor exercise, etc.

2. How many attendees do you expect at these events? If more than 19 (the number of planned parking spots), where do you expect them to park? **For regularly scheduled classes and open sessions, 15 – 20. In the case of a public exhibition, we would likely have the archers car pool and keep parking for guests, and then have to valet/double park. The required number of parking stalls is regulated by building code. More could be built, but then this takes up more “green space”, which would be objectionable to many.**

3. How many members are there in your dojo/club?

- (a) If over 19: why are you only planning 19 parking spaces?
- (b) How many new members are you ready to accept *right now*? (A friend who wanted to join was told that there was not even room on the waiting list.)

Hawaii Kyudo Foundation (HKF) is a separate entity from the kyudo clubs, although we know and work with them closely. The largest club, Hawaii Kyudo Kai, has about 40 members, of which 10 – 15 show up on any given practice session. They currently have a wait list for new folks that is at least 30 people, and they can only absorb a handful of newcomers annually as they don't have sufficient space or equipment to handle more. They operate in the basement meeting hall of a Buddhist temple, so logistics are difficult for them. There is another smaller club/group that probably numbers 10. There is still another

small group that practices at a small temple in Kalihi.

HKF's mission is dedicated to promoting the culture and practice of kyudo. To do that, we need to have newcomers, and we need to develop teaching resources. We are accepting people on our waiting list, so please have your friend contact me. The real capacity limiter initially will be qualified trainers. My wife competed in college so she is qualified to train, but we are actively seeking Japanese expats who can teach, and we have lined up some sensei from Japan who are willing to come to Hawaii to do one or two week seminars. Over time, I'm confident we will grow the teacher resources we need and expand the user base geometrically.

Importantly, the dojo should be thought of as a common resource. There are different styles of kyudo, and different preferences among groups of people who practice. With a facility available to them, we envision a number of different clubs will emerge, and we will qualify one of their members as the "Supervising Rangemaster" for that user group, and then that group can run its own program using the dojo as a base of operations. There were 12 kyudo clubs in Honolulu at one time.

4. Hirono mentioned a cooking class at the NB meeting. Will there be cooking facilities (stove, oven) at the Kyudojo? If so:

- (a) Who will be responsible to make sure there is no damage? Will a dojo member always have to be present for such events?
- (b) If not, how will you vet applications to conduct such classes?
- (c) Who will be responsible for the increased insurance/liability for such classes — the Club, the Foundation, or the City?

If/When we approach operational status, DPR and HKF will engineer the DPR website to handle applications for use of the facility. Existing DPR practice as follows: The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) charges a fee for the use of kitchen facilities at city recreational facilities.

- **Kitchen Use Fee:** Organizations and groups using kitchen facilities for their exclusive use or for fundraising purposes are assessed a fee of **\$25 per day** (or any fraction thereof) to cover utility and usage costs.
- **Permit Requirement:** A separate permit is required for kitchen use.
- **Custodial Fees:** If the use of the kitchen facility requires an attendant or custodian (e.g., for events outside regular hours), additional fees of **\$20 per hour** may be applied.

DPR already manages such facilities so has existing insurance coverage. HKF is required to have insurance and name City as additional insured to cover City for any losses due to our negligence.

5. Why aren't these classes (and other planned cultural activities) be more appropriately sited at the Japanese Cultural Center? **Other than kyudo related events, HKF is not currently planning cooking classes or any other activities - we are simply listing many possible activities, most of them not connected to Japanese culture, that the community can use the facility for. For kyudo activities, the JCC is not a workable physical facility, that is why Honolulu needs a true kyudojo**
6. We understand that Japanese dojos have extensive fire safety regulations as a result of their being severe fire risks. Floors are made of wood. Targets are made of straw. Bowstrings are maintained with a highly flammable mix of pine resin and oil. Flammable straw dust builds in the air. Isn't this a problem for cooking classes?

The targets used in kyudo are a wooden ring 14 inches in diameter X 4 inches deep , covered with a fiber cloth bullseye. The targets are then set into a dampened earthen berm. The target house/berm is about 100 feet away from the shooting gallery and the structure that contains the kitchen.



There is also a practice target used inside the shooting gallery called a makiwara. It looks like this:



Traditionally these were made of rice straw. However, agricultural restrictions do not allow us to import those to USA, so the ones we use are essentially a bundle of plastic straws – they are bound and shaped like the real thing, but are plastic.

The shooting gallery wooden floor is essentially a basketball court floor, but unfinished wood.

The floor in the meeting room/kitchen area will be concrete covered with a standard vinyl flooring material, which is fire rated.

In Japan, many of the older, traditional dojo's are wooden structures and fire is a concern for them. The dojo planned for Mau'umae is an all- steel structure, including roof, and the interior walls will be finished with sheet rock which, as you know, is highly fire resistant.

The dojo and all its components must meet fire code. There is no question that the metal dojo is far less a fire hazard than many of the the older wooden homes that abut the park.

7. At a NB meeting you speculated that 40–80 students could be trained in archery every year, but the question of current instructional capacity was unclear. When asked about instructors you suggested there were many instructors in Japan who would want to give lessons. Can we get more precise details?
 - (a) How many instructors do you currently have committed to giving lessons? Can we see the list? We currently have two qualified instructors for HKF (not including the other clubs). The instructors are Hiroko and a friend of hers who does not wish to be named publicly.
 - (b) Are they certified by some organization (as conventional archery instructors are certified)? Is this organization based in the USA? Both Hiroko and her friend earned and maintain their rank via testing with the All Nippon Kyudo Federation based in Japan, which is part of the International Kyudo Federation. Hiroko was the #3 ranked female in all of Japan as a collegiate archer at Kobe University. There is a USA affiliate of the Int'l Kyudo Federation and it is called American Kyudo Renmei. We know and have practiced with many of these folks on the mainland, but for now we don't see value in becoming a member of the USA organization.

- (c) How many lessons will it take for a student to be considered 'trained'?
- 3 months x Once/week practice will get student to a level where they can perform safely without hurting themselves or others. At that point they would leave structured class and practice independently or , more helpfully, with other more experience members of a kyudo club or in the open shooting periods where a seasoned rangemaster can still give tips and training advice.
- (d) How many students will this current set of instructors be able to instruct?
- Two instructors X 10 student per class = 20. If some of the students had prior experience class size could increase.
- (e) Are there age restrictions on these students? A hard policy has not been developed, but we would discourage anyone younger than high school junior because of potential oversteering of shoulder ligaments. Also, we do not have child size bows.
- (f) Will every student who takes lessons be invited to join the dojo? How many such students is the dojo ready to accept *right now*? As previously discussed, we envision numerous clubs with various priorities emerging and our hope would be that students would gravitate towards a group/club that was a good fit for them. Our whole mission is to grow kyudo, so we will nurture these student and ensure they find a path that keeps them engaged.
- (g) If not, will the students be permitted to shoot on their own (as tennis students are permitted to use parks to play on their own)?
- Definitely ! We plan to have an "Open" shooting day every week so that anyone who has passed the basic training/safety course can come and shoot. As the numbers grow, the number of "open" days can increase. An important thing to understand is that unlike western archery ,which is essentially a solo sport, a big part of kyudo is the discipline of shooting in a structured group following a highly ritualized pattern and etiquette. Accordingly, while one can get good at hitting the target via solo practice, one cannot get really good at the ritual of kyudo without practicing in a group.
- (h) If not, when will they be allowed to shoot? Only at open shooting events?
- (i) How many open shooting events do you plan to have every year? Will there be safety-trained instructors available at all such events?
- Starting with one open session a week, we will add capacity as demand grows. We will ensure a qualified Rangemaster is supervision all shooting activities.
- (j) How many shooters will be shooting at each such event? Please give a maximum and estimated average number. If there are similar events in Japan, please give some information, preferably with a source: how many people can shoot, how long do they last, etc. The proposed dojo is designed for a maximum of 6 targets, that means that 6 archers can line up at once to shoot, and the dojo is deep enough so that there could be two lines "on-deck" behind the shooting line. So, the capacity of the dojo is 18 archers in one round.

Typical Duration

- **Local / club competition: ~2 to 4 hours**

Kyūdō is intentionally **slow, ceremonial, and precise**. Time is driven by:

1. Shooting Pace

- Archers shoot in **small groups (usually 3–5 people)**
- Each archer performs the full **hassetsu (射法八節)** sequence (8 stages of shooting)
- A single round (typically **4 arrows per archer**) can take **10–20 minutes per group**

2. Number of Rounds

- Early rounds: elimination or scoring rounds
- Later rounds: finals or tie-breakers (**enkin / sudden death** style)

3. Ceremony & Etiquette

- Opening/closing ceremonies
- Formal entrance/exit procedures
- Strict adherence to timing and movement

Example (Common Format)

- 20–40 participants
- 4 arrows each in qualifying

- (k) What will be the capacity for spectators at such events? Will your building be conforming to the Japanese codes for safety (eg, the ‘university’ codes) for such events? **We don’t anticipate more than 20-30 so spectators at such an event. Safety protocols on the shooting range are the same whether there are spectators or not. Only difference with spectators would be that we would install temporary plexiglass barriers to protect spectators since the standard barriers would block sight. Parking constraints acknowledged, we would need to tell everyone to carpool or park at Kahala mall and shuttle up to the dojo.**
- (l) Who has legal liability if a visitor or member is injured on the premises? **As the facility will be city owned and managed under their supervision, no doubt an injured person would look to the City first in terms of liability. To the extent such injury was due to negligence or failure to perform a duty on the part of HKF, we would also be liable. Our PPP with the City requires HKF to be insured and to name City as additional insured.**
- (m) Is the facility ADA-compliant for people with disabilities, both in terms of access to the building and participation in activities? **The building is ADA compliant. We can only speak to kyudo activities, but as long as someone can complete the mandatory safety training and handle the equipment safely, the program would make reasonable accommodations.**
- (n) Will people not in the dojo be permitted to shoot at the clubhouse other than just at open shooting events? **Same as previous answer**
- (o) How will you keep people who reserve the clubhouse from shooting while they are there? Will you always require a dojo or Foundation member to be present for such uses? **The shooting gallery will have a separate locking door on it from the meeting room, so a group using the meeting room can’t access the shooting gallery. If it were something like a tai chi**

group that was using the shooting gallery area, they would not have access to archery equipment as that will be kept in locked storage, along with the targets, etc.

We have designed keypad locks so that people who reserve facility will get a one-time use code that will not be valid any other day. We will also have CCTV cameras. We don't foresee a need to have a HKF member or "docent" there at all events. What we envision is that a regular group of users will emerge (eg. a hula halau) and we will find a trusted leader of that group that will assume responsibility and with whom we could coordinate if a problem of use was discovered,

8. At the last NB meeting you said something about training seminars. Do you envision people who take such a seminar to be able to reserve the clubhouse and shoot without supervision from your club or foundation? How many people can be trained at such a seminar? How many such seminars do you commit to offering every year? Will you be issuing some kind of permit for people who have passed the training? Yes, we will issue a certificate to those who pass the safety training and keep a database so that they can always access the open shooting days. The kyudo seminars I was referring to would be the one or two week sessions conducted by guest instructors from Japan. These would likely NOT be for beginners, but more advanced practitioners who would benefit from these senior instructors. An HKF member will have to be in attendance for such seminars to coordinate between the guest instructors and attendees. Since we and the guest instructors are all unpaid volunteers, I can't commit to anything. Our aspiration is two per year, and we think that is achievable, especially once the word gets out in Japan that this opportunity exists.

9. Will you be storing your equipment in the Kyudojo building? (Relevant to the security question below, also the comment above about the flammability of the targets and of the chemicals used to treat kyudo bows.)

Some equipment will be stored on site. As discussed previously, targets are not unusually flammable. While the bowstrings are treated with rosin, it has a flashpoint of 368 degrees, so would need a significant heat source to combust – and bow stings are minimal volumes of material.

10. Security: How tall will the walls or fence be around the building? Will there be razor wire on the top? If not, how do you intend to keep teenagers from breaking in and stealing your weapons? This is something we have given much thought to because we don't want vandalism. The perimeter chain link fence will be nominal 8 ft, but on the side abutting the dog park (makai) it would be mounted on top of retaining wall, so effective height about 12 ft. On the East side, they would end up trapped behind the steel panel walls of the target house, which is about 12 ft at the eaves. On the west side, they would similarly be trapped against the rear of the shooting gallery, again, steel wall panels about 12 foot at the eave . On the makai side there is a secondary wooden fence between parking lot and dojo that will be about 9 ft high. The only doors I can realistically see vandals getting access to are the main entry doors and one of the fire exit doors. Both of these doors are solid steel in steel frames. Additionally, we will

have monitored security system and CCTV. If vandals then got through all of that, there would be another locked interior door to get into the shooting gallery, and then locked cabinets to access equipment.

11. Because of outreach, exhibitions, and classes, the clubhouse will function like university dojos in Japan. We understand that these have additional standards in place. Do you intend to conform to those standards? In particular:

- (a) Will you include the thicker steel or concrete backing behind the sand bank to prevent penetration? **The sand berm is multiple feet wide, I have never seen an arrow penetrate more than 6 inches into the berm. However, behind the sand berm is a concrete wall.**
- (b) Will your safety curtains (for skyshots) be double-layered? How often do you envision their replacement? **In response to community concerns we have changed design so that both the “Skynet” and the makai barriers will be metal. On the Mauka side, we need to keep a curtain structure so we can pull it back and install temporary plexiglass barriers for spectators. However, the curtain/netting, in normal configuration has a garden area behind it and that garden has a solid wood fence, so essentially a dual barrier. Netting/Curtan will be UV-stabilized HDPE. Backstop netting will be maintained under a formal inspection and replacement schedule not exceeding five (5) years of outdoor service, or sooner if inspection indicates degradation.”**
- (c) Will you have acoustic shielding in the building to prevent the loud sound of the string hitting the bow from disturbing residential neighbors? **Yes**
- (d) Will you have Japanese-compliant fire-rated rear exit doors to prevent people from being trapped if a fire starts in the equipment storage (which contains highly flammable bamboo and wax)? **Building and doors/windows must be built to U.S. Fire code ratings. There are ample fire exits and building meets code in this regard.**
- (e) Can you indicate all of these features on a set of plans? **Please let me know what features you want to see highlighted on plans and I will pull the necessary sheets.**

12. Since you plan cooking facilities at the dojo, will you also conform to all local code requirements for restaurants? **It is not a commercial kitchen facility for selling food to the public, it is for the private use of those using the facility. It complies with the building code for that use.**

I have spent my career in the engineering/construction disciplines, including serving as a shipboard engineering officer in the Navy. I owned businesses that did a lot of navy ship repair, as well as utility level high voltage electrical work. Safety, and particularly fire safety, have always been paramount concerns for me. Fires often are the result of poor maintenance or poor housekeeping – neither of which will be tolerated. Written standards for maintenance and operations will be promulgated and followed.