

**Good afternoon.**

**First of all I would like to offer my condolences to the Suzuki Family, and to all of you have come here this afternoon as well.**

**Thank you all for being here and for honoring our great teacher, Shinichi Suzuki Sensei, and also for allowing me the honor of a few minutes to speak to you about this gentle man.**

**Suzuki Sensei has received many awards in his long lifetime. The Hawaii state house and senate, the Maui county council, and the various Japanese cultural societies have all showered Sensei with these tributes through the years. There are so many of them now that they literally cover the walls in the dojo office. Of course, we are very proud of our teacher for being honored in this way, since it means that others saw what an impact he has had on our community here. However, for himself, he never took this outpouring of support too seriously. What he truly wanted was for all those who offered their respect to him to follow him in their daily practice. So if we are truly to honor this great man tonight and in the future, let's do so in the way that we live our own lives, moment by moment, day by day, year by year. This he would be grateful for.**

**Suzuki Sensei was never a society enthusiast; he didn't join groups; he was never a community activist. His life was always completely devoted to his Aikido training, and sharing that training with those who gathered around him over the years. Sensei was not a flashy man. You would never hear him blowing his own horn. But this man quietly and humbly, through the years, continued to offer something way beyond any of those things, and that was his heart. And even though he possessed a wealth of unique knowledge in his particular field of expertise, those of us who knew and loved him closely, hung out with him more because of what came from his life force, than any bit of knowledge we might have gained.**

**Suzuki Sensei was always a dynamo of Ki. Aikido, as it was passed on to us by this teacher, was never just a martial arts practice, but an inspiration towards living daily life completely. Sensei believed in the principle of teaching to others only that which he had actually experienced himself and as a result he never reached for wisdom beyond his own considerable resources. Even now, Shinichi Suzuki**

**Sensei will continue to be the dynamic guiding light for Maui Ki-Aikido, and many other Aikido teachers and students throughout the world. We are very proud and grateful to have had such a dedicated and selfless human being as our teacher.**

**Thank you**