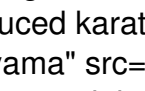


The origin of shotokan karate may be traced back to the small island of Okinawa nearly 400 years ago. Master Gichin Funakoshi, known today as the "father of modern karate", formally introduced karate to Japan in 1922 with formal expositions  sponsored by the Japanese ministry of education. In 1948, Funakoshi, assisted by two of his top students, Masatoshi Nakayama and Hidetaka Nishiyama, organized the Japan Karate Association (JKA). Funakoshi served as the head master until his passing in 1957.

Sensei M. Nakayama