



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

MARCH 2024



**Jen Jen Gali:
Making Hawaii
Proud
(See page 4)**



State of the Council

"Together, let's help others and grow our union!"

By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha All!

International Surfaces Event

Each year, the Floor Layers LUI926, selects an apprentice to participate in the annual flooring installation competition at the International Surfaces Event held in Las Vegas. This year, Jen Jen Gali competed against other apprentices and took first place! To prepare for the competition, Jen Jen took time out to practice and hone his skills with the training coordinator and instructors. I can't begin to express how proud I am of him – awesome job!



A huge "mahalo" to Pat Asuncion, apprenticeship coordinator, and to all of the instructors for the terrific work they do and for supporting Jen Jen on his journey! Their commitment to the trades and continued support ensures that all apprentices become skilled workers in the finishing trades. Please join me in congratulating Jen Jen Gali for bringing home the prestigious first place trophy! When you're at the union hall, please stop by the showcase to see his trophy on display.

Finishing Trades Apprentices



January 2024 marked the start of the spring semester for apprenticeship classes throughout the state. I had the opportunity to visit apprentices at the Honolulu Community College and remind them to make the most of their apprenticeship lessons. Work hard, come on time and learn all that you can. Remember, you have a career, and no one can take your skills away from you!

On Kauai, I continue to volunteer to instruct the painting apprentices at Kauai Community College. Although the class is not large, these apprentices show up on time and are ready to learn and work. I truly enjoy being with these members and giving back to the next

generation of members. Imua Kauai – keep up the great work!

IUPAT Women's Committee

While attending the LMCI Professional Forum and the Finishing Trades Forum this past February, I stopped and visited the IUPAT Women's Committee booth. These sisters in our trades have dedicated themselves to promoting and recruiting



Continued on Page 3



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International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades

District Council 50

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State of the Council

Continued from Page 2

more women. These successful young women are energized to help others make a better life for themselves. Their relentless drive is inspiring, and I have pledged to encourage more wahine to join us. If you know of anyone who might want a career in our trades, please have them contact me or any of the business representatives for more information. Together, let's help others and grow our union!

US Transportation Secretary Pete

Buttigieg Visits Hawaii

On February 26, I joined business representatives, and directors of servicing and government affairs, at a press conference and blessing of the Kapalama Container Terminal. This project was made possible through the funding of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure law. Pete Buttigieg, US Transportation Secretary, Hawaii's



Congressional delegation and other dignitaries were in attendance at this auspicious ceremony. Secretary Buttigieg toured the state and highlighted key infrastructure investments. He visited the devastated Lahaina town and took a ride on the Skyline. I am hopefully optimistic that because of his visit to Hawaii, our members might see more funding flow into our state for future projects.



Training Center Update

I am happy to provide an update on the status of the construction of the new training center. Currently, the walls of the structure have been completed and we are waiting for the steel struts to arrive. Once in place, the roofing will commence. The completion date for the project has been pushed back due to weather issues, but we have been assured that the project will be completed by June.



Campaign Endorsement/Elections

As you know, this is a big election year. Besides the Presidential election, we also have the state's governor and lieutenant governor, Oahu's and Hawaii island's mayoral races, half of the State Senate and all State



Representative seats are up for re-election. Needless to say, it's going to be a busy term! DC50 has early endorsed US Congresswoman Jill Tokuda and Scott Nishimoto for Honolulu City Council, District 5. Primary Election Day is Saturday, August 10, via mail-in voting. If you have not already done so, please register to vote... and I encourage everyone to exercise your right to vote!



Mahalo for all the great work you do every day! Keep safe and please reach out to me if you have questions or just to "talk story."

Ryden Valiga

Political Department Report

The 2024 Legislative Session opened on January 17, and key deadlines are rapidly approaching. Your Political Department has been busy sifting through all the proposed construction-related legislation – especially legislation related to the rebuilding of Maui.

DC50 strongly supports the rebuilding of Lahaina as soon as possible, but we must do it in a responsible way that does not discard any of the union protections that the law affords us.

Thus far, the bills moving do not present a threat to our rights, but we will keep a close eye on them as they move forward.

This session, we have supported bills that would make it illegal for companies to force their employees to attend company meetings or read company literature about political matters, because such topics simply have no place on the job. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, we also supported bills that would require all ships docking in Hawaii ports to be moored by a union company. 🙌

Jen Jen Gali: Making Hawaii Proud

In a dazzling display of skill and craftsmanship, floor layer apprentices from various District Councils recently competed in the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) apprentice flooring installation competition held at the International Surfaces event, January 28-30, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas.



Capturing first place was Jen Jen Gali, an apprentice floor layer affiliated with District Council 50, Local 1926! "It was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime moment for me, Jen Jen said. "Winning the competition at such a prestigious event was beyond my wildest dreams. I felt a mixture of joy, pride and gratitude for the support I received from my mentors and family. I especially want to thank District Council 50, Doug, Pat, Richard, Duane and Paul for the

knowledge they instilled in me during apprenticeship classes."

Jen Jen got involved with IUPAT District Council 50 through a family member in District Council 50's Floor Layers Local 1926 who talked about the competitive wages, benefits and opportunities a career with District Council 50's Floor Layers could provide its members and their families.

Jen Jen first heard about the IUPAT Apprentice Floor Layers international competition from Paterno "Pat" Asuncion during apprenticeship classes. "I was interested in doing something that would push me

out of my comfort zone and challenge me," he explained.

The challenge involved commercial material, the IUPAT logo being centered, installed in mock-up, with border using two different colors of material. Precision and attention to detail were crucial. "I incorporated techniques I learned during my apprenticeship to adapt to what was required as I normally do not work on commercial installations," Jen Jen said.

For aspiring floor layers or those considering a career in the trades Jen Jen's advice is: "Never give up, learn from your mistakes, and trust the process. The road to being the best in your craft requires continuous learning where mistakes will always happen, just trust in yourself and your abilities and everything else will follow."

In winning the IUPAT Floor Layers apprentice installation competition, Jen Jen not only showcased exceptional talent but also highlighted the importance of quality training and mentorship in the trades.

As the industry continues to evolve, apprentices like Jen Jen represent the future, bringing innovation and skill to the forefront of flooring craftsmanship. District Council 50 is proud of Jen Jen for representing Hawaii and Floor Layers Local 1926. Mahalo and congratulations! 🙌



FIF 2024 Conference

This year, the Finishing Industry Forum (FIF) Conference was held February 24-29 at the Mirage in Las Vegas. Both Labor and Management of the Painting, Glazing, Taping, and Flooring industries from all over the United States and Canada met to learn, discuss how well we have been doing, voice our concerns, and find out where we are headed. Tim Stricker, the head of FIF, touted this year's attendance of over 500 as the largest they have ever had.

General President Jimmy Williams, Jr. said in the plenary that IUPAT has a unique opportunity to grow, change the landscape of our industries, and meet any challenges that come our way. He said that thanks to President Joe Biden, we had an increase in working hours, as he created work in the infrastructure across America. He also said that 2023 was a great year for IUPAT because we experienced a great increase in membership. Sean McGarvey, President of the North America Building Trades Unions, also spoke about taking advantage of these unique opportunities by increasing the next generation of contractors and ensuring work for the next generation of union members.

Some of the other sessions offered included:

- Cybersecurity and Third-Party Risk Management – what to look out for and how to better protect yourself from a cyber-breach,
- IUPAT Helping Hand – how to identify, help and address

substance abuse, suicide and depression amongst our members,

- Mastering Time – get done what you can in two minutes or less and prioritize the rest by creating a master list.

This year, breakout sessions were craft oriented, with each trade meeting and discussing the needs of their respective industries. The Glaziers met for two days, as both Management and Labor discussed issues affecting our trade. The NACC/AMGT certifications and the work that was being assigned because of it was a valuable topic. Work on the East Coast had language in a PLA that made it mandatory that glazing contractors have NACC certification to work on State projects of \$1.5 million or more. We discussed carpenters and iron workers attempting to take our work and what we can do collectively to prevent this from happening, as well as many other issues. Looking forward to the next FIF. 🙌



Hilo Construction Career Day

On February 22, we participated in the Hilo Construction Career Day at the Hilo Civic Auditorium grounds. After a hiatus of a few years, we were able to attend the awesome event that included close to 900 students and over 200 volunteers. We were also honored to have Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth stop by and participate in the event.

Since it has been some time since there was a large event in Hilo, all of our training coordinators participated. It was great for the attendees to hear each training coordinator explain what kind of benefits each trade has to offer.

The students were amazed to learn how much money they could earn and all the benefits they would have access to by becoming a union member. We explained that if they

did not have college in mind our union would offer them a good living in Hawaii with livable wages and benefits for themselves and their families. We also explained that if a union member decided to move to the mainland, they can still remain a union member since District Council 50 is affiliated with other International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Councils and their unions in the United States and Canada.

It was a very good Career Fair, and the attendees were very excited to hear that they had other options if they decided not to pursue a college education. 🧐



Floor Layer's Report

Aloha to all! It's time to celebrate this year with a bang! The largest increase in the floor layers union wages of all time has been locked in for the next five years! It was a long and intensive process negotiating with the Hawaii Flooring Association and union contractors, but we were able to agree on an increase totaling

\$13.85 over the five-year period (2024-2028). The increase in the first two years will be \$2.25 per year. The third year will see an increase of \$2.75. The fourth year increase will be \$3.25. The last year will be an increase of \$3.35.

Additionally, we were able to successfully increase other items such as: night differential pay for journeyman, which increases to \$4 per hour for journey persons, \$2 per hour for apprentices, and \$3 per hour for foremen.

Furthermore, neighbor island meal per diem increases to \$50, with additional \$5 increments each year throughout the contract. Plus, any installer who is a resident of the Big Island will get paid a per diem if they have to drive from Hilo to Kona and vice versa.

Also, apprentices will get starting pay that is 50 percent of a journeyman, instead of 45 percent.

All of these gains are possible due to your hard work, cooperation and commitment to your craft. Please keep up the good work and let's keep moving forward together.

On a final note, I would like to ask everyone to listen with a positive, open mind and try to mentor others with kindness and without judgment. 🧐



ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Please be reminded that
beginning July 1, 2024,
cash payments
will not be accepted.

Acceptable forms of payments:
Checks, Credit/Debit Cards

Parkway Village Project in Kapolei

Parkway Village at Kapolei is a mixed-use development project by the Kobayashi Group, Ahe Group, and the City & County of Honolulu that aims to provide affordable housing solutions and much-needed early childhood education facilities. With a budget of \$199 million, the project includes 405 affordable rental units and two on-site preschools.

Lot 7 of the project is currently underway, with Lots 6a and 6b to follow. Coastal Construction, Inc. is the general contractor. Union subcontractors involved in Lot 7 include WE Painting for painting services, Coastal Construction for drywall finishing and glazing, and Vans Flooring & Tile for flooring installation. Lot 7 is scheduled for completion in January 2025.

As the project moves forward, it shows the effectiveness of partnerships in addressing critical housing needs and economic growth in the area. Parkway Village at Kapolei is just one of many projects in the area that help the community grow and provide affordable homes for local families. 🧱



Youth Services Center Information Session

On February 16, District Council 50 participated in the Work Hawaii Youth Services Program career exploration event.

This engagement allowed young people to gain insights into the four trades we have to offer. Through interactive sessions and a lively Q&A, we were able to share valuable information about career opportunities in the union emphasizing the importance of skill development and apprenticeships.



The event served as a platform for aspiring individuals to explore and consider rewarding careers in the trades.

We want to thank the Department of Community Services Work



Hawaii Division's Youth Services Center for facilitating the interactive sessions for its students. We hope to continue to engage the community and inform them of the opportunities District Council 50 has to offer. 🧱

Updated Glazier's Rules & Regulations for Apprenticeship

After further review and discussion, Glazier's Joint Apprenticeship and Training has decided to update the Rules and Regulations for the Glazier's Apprenticeship Program. Listed below are the changes and additions, italicized for reference.

- *Apprentices, if working, shall be responsible for the completion of their Daily Progress Reports (DPRs) and related instruction to their Employer or supervisor for signature and grading. This report shall be properly completed and signed and submitted to the JATC via the Apprenticeship Training Coordinator and become a part of the Apprentice's permanent record unless they have a disability, and that disability has been approved by the JATC. Failure to turn the DPRs shall result in an infraction. First infraction - a week's suspension of work. The second infraction shall be determined by the JATC and may result in the expulsion of the Glaziers Apprenticeship program.*

- *Apprentices are required to both work and attend classes each semester, failure to do so may result in the expulsion of the Glaziers Apprenticeship program and this shall be determined by the JATC.*
- *Apprentices must notify the union whenever the apprentice is not working, so the union can find employment for the apprentice providing the apprentice's dues are current and will issue a work referral slip.*
- *If you voluntarily terminate your employment with one shop, you must register with the union's unemployed list. If the proceeding has not been approved then you will be removed from that employer by the union, returned to the unemployed list and may face penalties from the JAC.*

Should there be any questions, Glazier apprentices should contact their Training Coordinator by email or the Training Department 808-947-6606. 🧱

The Tokunaga Ohana: Apples don't fall too far from the tree...

It started in the early 80s when the construction boom – fueled by foreign investments from Japan – led to explosive growth in office spaces, hotel rooms, and the residential market. There was a demand



for more construction workers. This is where the first generation of drywall workers started for the Tokunaga family with grandfather Lloyd. He made a name for himself through hard work and patience and eventually joined Associated Insulation & Drywall.

Eventually, Lloyd's son Daren joined as a drywall framer and hanger apprentice, becoming the second generation of drywall construction workers in the family. Both father and son enjoyed successful careers in drywall.

Moving forward 20 years later, Daren had his own family. As the years went by, these two offspring saw the success that their grandfather and father had attained. Eventually, they both decided to enter the drywall industry and joined the Tapers Union. It turned out to be the best decision they made. Tiana and



Darien became apprentice tapers and went through the program.

Tiana saw the value of being a drywall taper, where she earned equal pay in a male-dominated industry. It was hard in the beginning, but she eventually found her place among the rest of the female tapers and the entire union membership.

As for Darien, he decided to

venture out and find another venue. When that did not pan out, he decided to return to the Drywall Tapers Union. Seeing Tiana earning the same pay as her male counterparts made him realize that the Tapers Union was a great trade to make his career in.

Today, with 13 years under her belt as a taper, Tiana is well-respected as a journey person and has worked for one company almost her entire taping career. She is very conscious being successful and working as much as she can. Darien, since rejoining the Union has only a few years to his career since deciding to continue the taping trade. He also has a great attitude and is well-liked by the other apprentices and journey persons. Both siblings are making



a name for family in the drywall industry that their grandfather started many decades ago.

Tiana and Darien are the future of the taping industry as many Baby Boomer tapers are retiring and leaving the trade.

These two Millennials are hardworking and resolute individuals and are part of the most full-time workforce followed by Gen X. They seek meaningful work and purpose and feel that their efforts make a positive impact. The Tapers Union seeks many more younger generation workers to join the trade and carry out the tradition of a very meaningful and profitable work force. Whether it be relatives, friends, or new ones, we welcome you! 🙌

District Council 50 Donates to Lahaina

On August 8, 2023, a blazing fire tore through Lahaina town destroying everything that stood in its path. The fire claimed lives and tore the spirit of a once happy and thriving community. Lahaina is now in a rebuilding phase with a lot of unanswered questions and people still left with nowhere to go.

It was a privilege for me to represent District Council 50 in distributing bags, canned goods, and school supplies to the Lahaina community.



The first stop was Lahainaluna School, where duffle bags were donated to the girls softball and the boys baseball team. Accepting the donation was Athletic Director Jonathan Conrad. He expressed his gratitude to all of District Council 50.

The second drop-off point was in Napili, where boxes of canned goods were distributed to the Holomua food hub. Connections were made through Deanna Davis, who sits on our MILA board. Many mahalos and much gratitude were shared and shown by the Deloso brothers.

The third and last stop was made outside of Lahaina, where 18 boxes of school supplies were delivered to Ke Kula o Piilani – a Hawaiian Immersion school k-5 that has taken in multiple keiki from Lahaina after the devastating fire. They showed their gratitude by doing a thank you chant that brought tears to all in attendance.

Thank you Team DC 50 for your support of our members and our community! 🙌





International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50
2240 Young Street
Honolulu, HI 96826



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Wanted: Please submit news clips, photos and articles on special events to: Lwoo@dc50.org

District Council 50 Meetings

- Young Lions Committee meetings – Friday, January 19, 2024; Friday, April 19, 2024; Friday, August 23, 2024; and Friday, October 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom video conference.
- Women's Committee meetings – Wednesday, February 7, 2024; Wednesday, May 1, 2024; August 7, 2024; and Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom video conference.

SPECIALTY WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1941

- Membership meetings – Second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791

- Membership meetings – Third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

DRYWALL TAPERS FINISHERS LOCAL UNION 1944

- Membership meetings – Second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

GLAZIERS, ARCHITECTURAL METAL AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL UNION 1889

- Executive Board meetings – Second to the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 4:45 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

CARPET, LINOLEUM AND SOFT TILE LOCAL UNION 1926

- Membership meetings – Third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY:

7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

ALTERNATING SATURDAYS:

7:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

District Council 50

Painters - LUI791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LUI944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LUI889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LUI926	808-942-3988
Specialty Workers - LUI941	808-941-0991
Toll-Free Neighbor Island	888-811-4020

DC 50 Joint Apprenticeship Training
808-947-6606
808-941-0991, Option 2

Trust Funds	808-523-9411
Toll Free Neighbor Island	877-523-9411

IN MEMORIAM

GILBERT ANTOY, FORMER PAINTERS LU1791 MEMBER
REYDENTO AGBAYANI, FORMER PAINTERS LU1791 MEMBER
HINANO GASCON, GLAZIERS LOCAL UNION 1889