

Joseph Bazemere Training Center Opens
(See page 2)









State of the Council

"Certification classes are now in full swing!"

By Ryden Valmoja DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

<mark>На</mark>рру New Year!

Blessing of the newly constructed "Joseph Bazemore" Training Center (JBTC)

I am thrilled to announce that after a year and a half of construction, the Joseph Bazemore Training Center (JBTC) is officially com-

pleted! On January 29, 2025, we held a special blessing ceremony for the facility, and we are now open for business.

The primary mission of JBTC is to provide ongoing training and certification programs for our members, ensuring that they stay up to date with the latest industry standards and advancements.

In 2022, the DC50 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund received a generous grant from the Finishing Trades Institute, enabling us to acquire essential equipment, including a scissor lift, boom lift, telehandler (Gradall), forklift, and manipulator. I am pleased to report that certification classes are now in full swing! If your certification is set to expire soon, please contact the training department to schedule your required classes.

To further support our members, DC50 Training now offers Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) training on Saturdays. A special thanks to Painter Instructors Peter Pascual and Kevin Fukushima, who have stepped up

to lead afternoon MEWP classes, helping to renew certifications.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mario Manrique, Jr., Acting Director of Training, for his dedicated efforts to develop an ambitious training schedule. He has been leading weekday evening classes focused on first aid and hazard communication, ensuring all our members receive the necessary training and certifications.

We look forward to seeing you at JBTC and continuing our commitment to excellence in training and safety.

Opening Day at the State Capitol

January 15, 2025, marked the opening day of the State of Hawaii's 33rd legislative session. Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, Jeffrey Masatsugu, Government Affairs Senior Advisor, and I had the pleasure of attending as guests of

Senate President Ronald Kouchi.

Each year, Hawaii's elected officials take on the important responsibility of addressing the needs and priorities of our communities through thoughtful legislation and policy decisions.

As representatives of DC50, we were honored to witness the opening proceedings and engage

with key legislators on issues that impact our members. Our presence at the session underscores our commitment to advocating for the *Continued on Page 3*.







International Union of Painters

and Allied Trades

District Council 50

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Excellence in Training and Compliance Set Union Workers Apart

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) is renowned for its comprehensive training programs that provide union workers with the skills and knowledge they need to excel in the construction and painting industries. IUPAT's training and compliance classes offer significant advantages for union companies and stand out in comparison to the offerings available from non-union companies.

One of the key benefits for union companies is direct training that ensures workers are highly skilled and up to date with the latest industry standards. IUPAT offers specialized courses in areas such as safety protocols, technical painting skills, and environmental compliance. These classes not only improve worker productivity and craftsmanship but also reduce workplace accidents and enhance overall

State of the Council

Continued from Page 2.



men and women across Hawaii.

rights and interests of our workforce.

We look forward to working closely with our elected officials throughout this legislative session to support policies that strengthen our industry and improve the lives of hardworking

Congratulations Erika!

The Painters and Allied Trades Labor Management Cooperative Initiative (LMCI) has approved funding for a maternity leave program administered by local health and welfare funds. This new benefit pro-



vides six weeks of paid leave for all eligible working participants who give birth.

On behalf of DC50, we are proud to congratulate Erika Luna, painter apprentice, as the first recipient of this program! Erika welcomed a healthy and beautiful baby girl, Elia Kealanani Luna Dolor, at the start of the year.

We extend our heartfelt con-

gratulations to Erika and Dolver Dolor, a foreman at Jade Painting, as they embark on this wonderful journey of parenthood. Wishing their family joy, love, and endless happiness!

Rych Valya

project quality. For union companies, this translates to more efficient operations, fewer delays, and a reputation for reliability that attracts top-tier clients.

Union training programs also prioritize compliance with safety regulations and industry standards. With labor laws and environmental guidelines becoming increasingly stringent, union-trained workers are equipped to meet these demands. The IUPAT's focus on OSHA certification, hazard communication, and lead-safe work practices gives union companies an edge in maintaining regulatory compliance, minimizing liabilities, and avoiding costly fines.

In contrast, non-union companies may not have access to such extensive training programs, which can result in less consistent worker skills and a greater risk of non-compliance with safety and environmental regulations. Non-union workers may also lack the support of a strong training network, meaning they may not receive the same high-level instruction or continuous professional development. This difference in training quality can affect the overall effectiveness and safety of projects, making union companies the superior choice for those looking for reliable, skilled workers who adhere to the highest industry standards.

Unity Amidst Turmoil

n an era marked by political storms, the unity of DC50 IUPAT members is our most potent asset. The benefits and wages we cherish are not mere perks; they are the hard-won victories of those who came before us – our union forebears who stood firm in the face of adversity. These victories, earned with grit and solidarity, encompass everything from our health benefits to safe workplaces – elements that we sometimes take for granted but are precious and hard-fought gains.

These achievements are fragile, however, always under threat by forces looking to undermine the power of the union and diminish workers' rights. This is why now, more than ever, we must remember the strength that comes from our solidarity. The political turbulence around us can only divide us if we lose sight of our common goals and the promises we made upon joining IUPAT — to support one another and strive together for better conditions.

Let's not forget who we are and what we stand for. It's time to look beyond individual differences and reconnect with our collective commitment. We need to harness the deep emotional connections that come from being part of something larger than ourselves — a movement dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of all its members.

As we face these challenging times, let us draw inspiration from our history and the enduring spirit of our union. Let us act with determination and protect what past generations have fought so fiercely to establish. Our unity is not just our strength; it is our legacy and our future.

Together, we are a force that cannot be stopped. With one voice and one resolve, let us renew our commitment to each other and move forward with an unbreakable spirit. Our union's heartbeat is strong, and, together, we will keep it that way, ensuring our rights and benefits are not only preserved but expanded. Let this be a reminder that in unity there is immense power. Now is the time to stand together and keep the promise of DC50 IUPAT alive.

DC50 Maui Apprenticeship Program Welcomes Drywall Finishers

The best time to start building leaders in this craft was 20 years ago... the second-best time is now!

Although Maui has been able to sustain itself in the past, moving forward will be very challenging if we do not invest in our future.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it together."

 Business executive loe Echevarria Tapers Union (BR) John Frigillana notes that building a program for Drywall Tapers on Maui has been a constant point of conversation over the past 20 years. "We have faced so many challenges and obstacles that every time this topic would surface there was something new that would derail its progress," he says.

Thankfully, in 2024, our (BMST) Rydan "Bully" Valmoja made it clear that we need to do whatever it takes to help

our members and service our signatory contractors on Maui. Orders were given to communicate with the new (DOT) Mario Manrique and proceed with the Tapers apprenticeship program.



Though this task still faces an uphill battle, we can learn a lot from the establishment of the Painters apprenticeship program back in 2022 by (DOO) Shane Awai. Shane faced a low turnout when he first started that program. Today, he is joined by



Gerald Barroga, a highly qualified foreman painter. As one of our Maui trainers, Gerald dedicates his time to building the next generation of painters. Together, Shane and Gerald have more than tripled the numbers since the start of the program.

All of this helps pave the way for our Tapers Apprenticeship program to come alive. Starting exactly where the painters started just a few years ago, we are blessed to have Lindsey Ching, a 30-plus year veteran and foreman Drywall Taper, ask if he could donate his time and lend a hand to help build the Tapers Apprenticeship Program. With the approval of Bully and Shane, Keaka Kamai the current DC50 Maui Organizer and Lindsey Ching took on this great opportunity to build the next generation of Maui Tapers.

We are very proud to say that the Tapers Union Local 1944 Drywall Finishers Apprenticeship Program Maui Division was officially launched on January 11, 2025.

International Surface Event

Surface Event. As a member of the IUPAT Floor Covering Craft Committee, I am a witness to the impact we leave on the industry when we attend this and other related conventions. Over the four years we have attended as exhibitors, I have seen interest grow in our apprentice training programs.

Over the two-and-a-half day event, contractors from around the country and other countries stop by our exhibit to watch our IUPAT apprentices show off their skills. Many visit a couple times a day to watch their progress and ask: "Where can we get this kind of training?" This gives us a chance to engage them and provide information about the union.

We offer opportunities to these contractors to come and tour our training facilities. As a committee member from Hawaii, I exchange contact information with contractors in my region, or I can direct them to other brother

nce a year there is a flooring event called the International committee members if that contractor is from their region. Our surface Event. As a mem-the IUPAT Floor Covering Craft regionally for a chance to represent

regionally for a chance to represent their council at this event are professional, courteous and knowledgeable in the industry and happy to answer questions directly. This is a statement to the quality of the training they receive through our IUPAT apprenticeship programs and our instructors.

The effort the committee puts into preparing for this event shows. Sponsors now come by the exhibit asking what they can do to get recognized with us. As a member who worked over two decades with the tools in the field, I am proud to see the recognition the IUPAT floor layers are now getting through conventions like this. This convention will help us organize more contractors or potential members who wish to benefit from our training programs. I look forward to participating in future events like this. I feel the IUPAT Floor Layers union is no longer such a best kept secret.



Apprentice Jonathan Youn: A Journey of Learning and Opportunity

In November 2024, the DC50 Floor Layers apprenticeship program held a local competition to select a representative for Surfaces 2025, the largest trade show in the flooring industry. For apprentice Jonathan Youn, this competition held in Las Vegas became a pivotal moment in his career, teaching him invaluable lessons about

pushing boundaries and embracing new opportunities.

Initially hesitant to enter the competition, Jonathan wasn't sure if he was ready to put his skills to the test on such a large scale. He had always lived by the mantra, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." As the deadline approached, he decided to step out of his comfort zone and give it a try.

"The more I thought about it, the more I realized there was nothing to lose. It was a chance to put into practice everything I'd learned in the classroom and really challenge myself," Jonathan said. Little did he know this

decision would not only change the course of his apprenticeship journey but also provide him with incredible personal growth.

The Challenge: Three Days to Complete a Mock-Up

The local competition spanned three days. It tested participants' technical skills, attention to detail, and ability to execute under pressure. Jonathan gave it his all, focusing on the skills he had honed during his apprenticeship.

Despite his limited experience with sheet vinyl, for example, Jonathan pushed through the uncertainty. "I didn't typically work with sheet vinyl in my day-to-day tasks, but this was an opportunity to learn and grow. It was a challenge, but that's where the growth happens," he reflected. Jonathan was proud of his efforts, regardless of the outcome. But when the winner was announced the following week, Jonathan was thrilled to hear his name called as the winner of



A Victory Leading to Surfaces 2025

Winning the local competition was a significant accomplishment for Jonathan, and it secured him the opportunity to represent the DC50 Floor Layers apprenticeship program at Surfaces 2025 and allowed him to showcase his skills in front of a large audience of industry professionals, including vendors, business owners, and union members.

Although Jonathan didn't win the competition at Surfaces

2025, he came away from the event with valuable lessons, professional growth, and an expanded network. "It was an incredible experience, even though I didn't take home the top prize. Just being there and connecting with so many people in the industry was invaluable," Jonathan said. "I learned so much, and the opportunity to compete

on that stage helped me see where I can improve and grow even more."

The Importance of Mentorship and Gratitude

Jonathan is quick to acknowledge the role that mentorship has played in his success. "I can't express enough how thankful I am for Doug (Kema) and Pat (Asuncion). They've had a tremendous influence on my journey. Their support has made all the difference, and I'm so lucky to have them in my corner," Jonathan said.



Additionally, Jonathan expressed his gratitude to all the journey persons, instructors and fellow apprentices who helped him along the way. "Each of them has played a part in shaping my career, and I'm deeply grateful for their mentorship."

A Lesson in Growth

Jonathan's story serves as a powerful reminder to always put yourself out there and embrace the opportunities that come your way, even when they seem intimidating. As he continues his journey in the flooring industry, Jonathan remains excited about what's next and is eager to tackle the challenges ahead.

Drywall Tapers Set for Another Five Years

egotiations for the Drywall Tapers LU 1944 was completed in December 2024, but due to scheduling, the Hawaii Wall and Ceiling Industry Association negotiation committee meeting to finalize and sign the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) was put on hold until both the HWCIA and the Drywall Tapers negotiation committee could meet. It was well communicated with the president of the Hawaii Wall and Ceiling Industry Association that despite the timing to get the signatures to the CBA, the wage and fringe benefits increases would be in effect on January 2, 2025.

Understanding the growth in the construction industry played a major role in getting a good contract for the Tapers Union. Many of the tapers wanted more dollars in wages over benefits. Because all of the funds are in a great position with years of reserves, more dollars went to the hourly wage and less into benefits.

The Health and Welfare fund was increased as a safety precaution just in case medical, prescriptions, vision, chiropractic, and dental get utilized and get a jump in costs for the services. The Annuity fund had a great fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and the returns to individual funds were well accepted by the benefit participants. The Vacation fund was also a plus amongst the participants, and the Hawaii Tapers Retiree Health Reimbursement Fund is extremely healthy for a new fund that was just established in 2015.

Apprentices also benefited. Now, 55 percent apprentices will receive a portion of the Vacation fund. At 65 percent they will receive the Vacation and a portion of the Annuity, which is an increase from the 2024 rate. At 75 percent, the Vacation is increased and so is the

The Grand Naniloa Hotel

The Grand Naniloa Hotel Double Tree by Hilton is located on the coastline of Hilo Bay on the East side of Hawaii Island was built in 1939. It survived the 1946 tsunami that devastated Hilo and



the hotel has been through numerous renovations over the years to maintain the facilities for its guests.

The current project will take between four to six months to repair and paint three sides of the main building. Most of the work will rely on suspended scaffolding to access the exterior of the building. When complete, the building will be used by

tourists and locals that expect to see well-maintained property from the Double Tree by Hilton brand.

Working in Hilo can be complicated because weather condi-

tions can change at any time and cause delays to the project. This is why members that live on the East side and are used to the Hilo conditions — can help minimize any delays or damages on the project.

Most members of District Council 50 that live on the Big Island live on the East side, while most of the large jobs are on the West side. They usually need to get up



early and travel to the West side, work their shift, then return home late in the evening. So, when projects happen on the East side, many members appreciate being close to home so they can spend more time with their families.

Continued from Page 5.

Drywall Tapers

Annuity contribution. With the growth of construction, members will really benefit from the continuous work hours in the years to come. They can build their nest egg while taking home the pay that they have been longing for.

In the past, a good construction year for the tapers meant working eight to 10 months out of the year, but working 12 months out of the year in construction is exceptional. The Collective Bargaining Agreement will greatly benefit members' Annuity, Vacation, and Health Reimbursement funds over the next five years. With careful planning, they can enjoy greater financial security in retirement.

2025: A Thriving Year for Glaziers in Hawaii

The year 2025 is shaping up to be a landmark year for glaziers in Hawaii, with an overwhelming demand for skilled tradespeople to tackle an extensive list of construction projects across the islands. So much work is in the pipeline that the industry is looking to import journey persons from the mainland to help meet the growing need for qualified workers.

With major residential, commercial, and public infrastructure projects in the works, glaziers will play a crucial role in ensuring these projects meet their deadlines with precision and quality craftsmanship. Here's a look at some key projects currently underway and those set to begin this year.

Major Projects Already in Progress

- Ulana Ward Village Residential development is on track for completion in November 2025.
- The Park Ward Village Project is slated for completion in the second quarter of 2026.
- Koa Ridge & Ho'opili Residential Developments Large-scale housing projects with timelines expected to span the next 10 - 15 years.
- UH Sinclair Library Renovation Expected to wrap up by the end of the third quarter of 2025.
- Hale Haukani UH Manoa housing project scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2026.
- Honolulu Wastewater Treatment Facility Completion date beyond 2025.
- Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Work will extend well past 2025.

New Projects Starting in the Second Quarter of 2025

 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park USGS Field Station - Kicking off in June 2025, this project is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2026.

New Projects Starting in the Third Quarter of 2025

- Kalae Ward Village Ward Village project aiming for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.
- Alia Kakaako Project Scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 2026.
- Kuilei Place Affordable Housing Set to wrap up in the last quarter of 2026.
- HPHA School Street Senior Affordable Housing Completion in the first quarter of 2026.
- American Pipe Boiler Project Set for completion in the first quarter of 2026.
- Hilton Hawaiian Village Rainbow Tower Remodel (Phase 2) -Expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2026.

Meeting the Manpower Challenge

More projects are expected to break ground, further intensifying the demand for skilled glaziers. For those in the trade, this is an exciting time filled with opportunities. Whether you're an experienced glazier or a newcomer looking to break into the industry, 2025 is shaping up to be a year of growth, innovation, and prosperity for Hawaii's construction workforce.



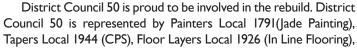


Rebuilding Hope: The Reconstruction of Kai'aulu o Kupuohi

The devastating fire of August 8, 2023 swept through the town of Lahaina, leaving behind a trail of destruction and heartbreak. Among the buildings that was destroyed by the blaze was Kai'aulu

o Kupuohi, an affordable housing apartment complex that had been completed merely eight months prior. This tragedy not only displaced numerous residents but also sent waves of sorrow and empathy around the globe.

The Maryl Group, the same construction company that initially completed Kai'aulu o Kupuohi, has taken on the task of reconstructing the complex. This effort is spearheaded by the development group Ikaika Ohana, dedicated to providing affordable living solutions for the people of Lahaina and those who qualify.



and Glaziers Local 1889 (Union One Glass and Metal).

The rebuilding of Kai'aulu o Kupuohi is more than just a construction project; it represents a symbol of strength and renewal for the local community. The complex aims to offer a safe and affordable living space, ensuring that residents can return to a sense of growth and stability.

"From the ashes we shall rise."

- Rapper Jean Wyclef



Progress Report Reminder

progress reports by the 10th of each month. These reports track hours worked, skill development, and feedback from supervisors. Timely submission is essential to monitor progress and ensure that apprentices meet training milestones.

Raises are awarded every 1,000 hours worked, and the prog-

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ress reports play a crucial role in confirming eligibility. When submitted on time, these reports help facilitate raises and demonstrate the apprentice's commitment and growth. It's a straightforward system designed to reward hard work and dedication.

However, failure to submit reports on time can result in delays, missed raises, or even expulsion from the apprenticeship program. To remain in good standing and continue progressing, apprentices must meet this mandatory requirement consistently and stay on track with their training goals.

Mass Deportation and Its Impact on Construction

mmigration has been a vital part of the construction industry, providing the workforce needed to build homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Immigrant workers, both documented and undocumented, make up a significant portion of this sector, offering skills and labor that are critical to keeping projects on track. However, policies like mass deportation threaten to disrupt this delicate balance.

In the U.S., undocumented workers account for roughly 13 percent of the construction workforce. If mass deportations were to remove even a fraction of these workers, the impact would be felt across the industry. Labor shortages could delay projects, increase costs, and strain the remaining workforce. Contractors would face tighter budgets, and workers could endure unsafe conditions or longer hours to meet demands.

Hawaii's construction industry is especially vulnerable. As an island state, sourcing skilled labor is already challenging. Immigrant workers fill vital gaps in the workforce, bringing diverse skill sets that help keep projects moving. Without them, Hawaii might have to rely more on out-of-state workers, which raises costs and causes further delays. This could slow critical housing and infrastructure projects, affecting local economies and communities.

The effects extend beyond construction sites. Delayed housing projects could worsen affordability issues, while unfinished infrastructure could hurt tourism and transportation. On a personal level, mass deportations disrupt families and communities, creating uncertainty and division.

Unions like the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) can be part of the solution. By offering training and apprenticeships, unions help develop a skilled local workforce. They also advocate for policies that protect workers' rights and promote fairness in immigration.

Hawaii thrives on diversity and inclusivity. The construction industry must reflect these values by supporting immigrant workers and building pathways to success for all. Together, we can create a resilient industry that benefits everyone.





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 17, 2025; Friday, April 18, 2025; Friday, July 18, 2025; and Friday, October 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the DC50 hall and via Zoom video conference.
- •Women's Committee meetings Wednesday, March 5, 2025; Wednesday, June 4, 2025; Wednesday, September 3, 2025; at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom video conference and Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the DC50 hall.

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.
SATURDAY:
7:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

District Council 50

Painters - LU1791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LU1944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LU1889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LU1926	808-942-3988
SpecialtyWorkers-LUI941	808-941-0991
Toll-Free Neighbor Island	888-811-4020

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

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT DEPONTE, SR., GLAZIERS LU1889