



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

SEPTEMBER 2023



#PrayersForMaui

Photo credit: S. Awai



State of the Council

“DC50 is committed to supporting diversity, equality and inclusion in our union...”

By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha All!

Maui No Ka ‘Oi

By now, all of us are aware of how the devastating wildfires on Maui have impacted so many of our members, friends and family. We are a small, tightly knit state, so it's very likely that everyone is somehow connected to someone on Maui. On behalf of DC50, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones, homes and businesses in the fire. We are deeply saddened by this horrific event and pledge to support the effort to rebuild the community again. Imua Maui! #MauiStrong!

Labor Unity Picnic

In light of the recent tragedy caused by the Maui wildfires, the DC50 Executive Board decided not to participate in this year's annual Labor Unity Picnic at the Waikiki Shell. Instead, all donations – such as school supplies, canned food and monetary donations – will be distributed to members and the community who were affected by the wildfires.

The Labor Unity Picnic has been rescheduled for October. Again, however, out of respect to so many that have suffered so much loss, we cannot in good conscience take part in the picnic.

IUPAT – Focusing on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

The staff and I just returned from the IUPAT Leadership Conference with important takeaways. We are tasked to focus on transforming the culture of the finishing trades. As you may have noticed, there are a few more females on the jobsite working side-by-side with many of you; we look forward to many more joining us!

DC50 is committed to supporting diversity, equality and inclusion in our union. To accomplish this, the council is working to create a mentorship program that will inspire and ensure that members are guided on a path to success, and, more importantly, a program that will create bonds between our sisters and brothers in our union.

We will continue to work to make certain that we grow our membership by attending career fairs, meeting with students from K-high school, and other recruitment opportunities to inspire more people to join us.

We all need to come together to keep our district council moving forward by protecting the right to organize, inviting workers to join us, and educating more people on the values of being a union member.

Update on the New Training Center

I want to give you a quick update on the status of the construction of the training center. It's been a long and arduous construction

permitting process, but we are almost there. There are a few more logistical approvals that we need, but we are hopeful that groundbreaking will commence sometime in October.

Once construction begins, parking for compliance classes will be restricted in the lot. We are seeking alternative venues to hold the classes or may plan to hold weekday evening classes to alleviate congestion. Thank you in advance for your patience; we will continue to keep you updated as information becomes available.

Mahalo and please stay safe!

Ryden Valmoja



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International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades

District Council 50

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Resilience of an Apprentice in Maui: Maui Strong

Maui, known for its stunning landscapes and vibrant communities, has faced its largest challenges in the last few weeks, particularly in the form of recurring wildfires. Despite the devastating fire in Lahaina and the daunting threat of more fires, Painter's apprentices on Maui have exhibited their unwavering determination and commitment to their craft by continuing their apprenticeship classes.

One might wonder what motivates these apprentices to press on during such trying times. The answer lies in their unwavering dedication to their chosen profession. Even in the face of adversity, these

budding painters understand that the skills and knowledge they gain during their apprenticeship is not just for personal growth but are also crucial in helping to restore and beautify their beloved island.

They recognize that their trade plays an essential role in rebuilding and revitalizing the island after the fires have subsided. Their commitment to learning and honing their skills remains unshaken. Their commitment to their apprenticeship classes, their dedication to their community, and their determination to thrive amidst the challenges of nature make them a true inspiration for all. 🙌



Heat Stress in Hawaii's Construction Industry

Each year, construction workers in Hawaii face a significant challenge: the growing risk of heat-related illnesses. As temperatures climb, these illnesses are triggered by prolonged exposure to heat and can lead to serious health consequences. Symptoms such as persistent fatigue, irritability, heavy sweating, and heightened body temperature serve as crucial indicators.

Hawaii's construction workers encounter a unique set of hurdles due to the state's climate. The combination of elevated temperatures and humidity, coupled with the physically demanding nature of their job, places them at increased risk. Direct sun exposure, often without sufficient shade, exacerbates the issue. Moreover, the lack of airflow at construction sites, especially in enclosed spaces, intensifies heat stress. The protective clothing that construction workers wear – while essential for safety – also retains heat.

To counter these risks, taking proactive measures is of utmost importance. These actions include adequate hydration, offering regular breaks in shaded areas, providing specialized training to identify early signs of heat-related illnesses, and establishing clear protocols for emergencies. When uncertain about the nature of an injury, it's advisable to seek professional help by dialing 911.

Beyond the challenges of heat exhaustion, a more severe threat is heat stroke. This life-threatening condition manifests through confusion, loss of consciousness, and dangerously high body temperatures. Swift intervention is crucial, involving cooling techniques, proper hydration, and removing excessive clothing.

Zooming out to the broader context of Hawaii's construction industry, the complexity of the local climate underscores the importance of prioritizing worker safety during periods of intense heat exposure. By collaboratively addressing these challenges, the construction sector can set an example of effectively safeguarding workers' health and well-being amidst demanding environmental conditions.

For more information, the "Hawaii Hazardous Hotline" newsletter published by the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health offers insightful perspectives. Access the newsletter via this link: [<https://labor.hawaii.gov/hiosh/files/2022/06/HHH-Vol.16.pdf>] (<https://labor.hawaii.gov/hiosh/files/2022/06/HHH-Vol.16.pdf>). 📄

DC50 Supports New Construction Projects

The Political Department has been busy meeting with politicians and helping developers obtain government approval for potential future construction projects on Oahu.



Ward Village Blocks “D” and “E”

Howard Hughes’ new projects in Kakaako, now known as Blocks “D” and “E,” will redevelop the Ward Warehouse area of Kakaako between Ala Moana Boulevard and Auahi Street. These projects will involve the construction of two new residential towers with considerable commercial tenant and open community spaces throughout the projects.

On August 2, 2023, the Hawaii Community Development Authority, the government agency responsible for approving development permits in Kakaako, granted a motion by Howard Hughes for modifications to the district rules. Howard Hughes sought the exemptions so that they could make the towers more modern and attractive while keeping the design of the new towers consistent throughout Kakaako.

Your Political Department testified in support of both projects and will testify at the final hearing before the HCDA on October 4, 2023.

Princess Kaiulani Hotel Renovation

In 2019, Kyo-Ya sought and obtained approval from the Honolulu City Council to redevelop the Princess Kaiulani Hotel. Before Kyo-Ya could begin substantive pre-construction work on the project,

however, COVID-19 struck and Kyo-Ya was forced to put the project on hold. The City Council’s approval in 2019 included a requirement that Kyo-Ya submit building plans by December 2023. Kyo-Ya requested an extension of the December 2023 deadline because it needs time to secure financing for the renovations and needs more time for the Japan tourism market to recover.

On July 26, 2023, the City Council Zoning Commission held a hearing on Kyo-Ya’s motion and voted to recommend approval by the full Council. On August 9, 2023, the full Council granted Kyo-Ya’s requested extension of time. Your Political Department testified in support of the request at both hearings.

1538 Kapiolani

This project (Resolution 23-32) will develop a market rate condominium on Kapiolani Boulevard (the site of the old KGMB News Station) as well as redeveloping existing commercial buildings into affordable housing condominium projects on Auahi Street and Kalakaua Street. One of the principals of the project, JL Ala Moana LLC, developed the SKY Ala Moana project, which employed a number of our contractors and members. *Continued on Page 5*

NORA Technical Academy

NORA Senior Technical Specialist Gary Bedrosian held a two-day training class for the Floor Layers general membership as well as recertification from July 19 - 20, 2023. NORA Technical Academy focuses on the latest installation techniques and industry standards, sub-floor preparations, and provides extensive hands-on training. Upon successful completion of this class, the installer will receive an ID card confirming their status as an approved NORA installer.



For members requiring review and renewal for the training, a 30-minute refresher was held. Renewal of NORA Approved Installer status is subject to additional training for new installation techniques every three years. NORA Training is held annually by District Council 50’s Training Department. If you’re interested, please contact Training Coordinator Pat Asuncion. 🙌

Helping Hands

At the recent 2023 Leadership Conference, various committees from the IUPAT Finishing Trades met and gave their reports and recommendations to the General President and the General Executive Board. There were many good recommendations that would improve the trades and skills of the membership.

The goals of the departments are to educate everyone about the need to hire more apprentices. Recruitment, retention, and membership growth are of high priority. It is natural that many longtime members will eventually retire and leave the trade. Replacing these members is necessary to keep the IUPAT strong. Inclusion, diversity and unity are the keys to keeping the IUPAT strong and growing.

One of the most underestimated topics, that in reality is an everyday occurrence, is the mental health of the membership. Recently, Chris Scheiblein was appointed to head the Helping Hands Initiative. Chris gave an in-depth report to all the attendees of the Leadership Conference hit home. Facts that he reported demonstrated that the majority of fatalities in construction are not from accidents, safety issues, or typically reported casualties. The category of "others" was what we should be concerned about. The numbers for this category were not the highest but where reports do not say whether it was from drug overdose or suicide, mental health issues, there was no indication of the manner in which the person passed. This is where we should be concerned about the health and welfare of the membership.

Continued from Page 4

New Construction Projects

Some opponents were vocal in their opposition to the project in the news media. These opponents had mistaken this project for a different project on Kapiolani Boulevard where rental tenants were being evicted. This project involves only land that is currently being used for commercial – not residential – purposes.

On July 26, 2023, and August 9, 2023, your Political Department testified in support of the project and the Council granted JL Ala Moana's development permit.

DC50 supported these projects because they involve developers who have a positive track record for using our contractors and members on their projects. DC50 and the Political Department will continue to work with and support such developers and their projects to ensure that our members will have steady work well into the future.

Mahalo to all of the Honolulu City Council Members—and especially members Calvin Say, Chair Tommy Waters, Tyler-Dos Santos Tam, Matt Weyer, Esther Kiaaina and Radient Cordeiro—for their work on and support of the Princess Kaiulani Hotel and 1538 Kapiolani projects. The support of these Council Members – many of whom DC50 endorsed in their last elections – was crucial to the approval of these two projects. 🙏



Through Helping Hands Mental Health Awareness, the majority of the unfortunates could have been helped through Mental Health First Aid, and Peer Support courses that the Agents, Training Coordinators, and Instructors have been through. All it takes is to be aware of one's behavior; personality swings, work habits, and sudden changes to themselves. As leaders, we could lend a hand, be there for them to vent, and lend an ear to listen to them. That is all it takes to make a significant impact on members.

Knowing that the Union is there for the membership to aid in any way is important. Referrals to professional help with Employee Assisted Programs (EAP) from Health Care Service Providers is a valuable resource for members dealing with mental health issues and personal crisis. District Council 50 is here to help build a caring culture. One life saved is worth all the effort of the program. 🙏

American Heart Association First Aid Class

In August 2023, District Council 50 began teaching the American Heart Association's Heart Saver First Aid/CPR & AED certification class to some of its apprentices. This was part of District Council 50's gradual transition from the American Red Cross to the American Heart Association program, as the latter is more widely accepted by healthcare professionals and is considered the gold standard of training in the medical field.

The Training Department was also able to showcase new CPR mannequins and new AEDs for apprentices to learn on. The apprentices were able to practice CPR on baby mannequins and were pleased with the American Heart Association material.

Head instructor Garrett Russell did a great job, along with Training Coordinators Pat Asuncion and Mario Manrique, Jr., who assisted Garrett by proctoring the class. After the class was completed, both apprentices and instructors expressed their satisfaction with the outcome.

DC 50's Training Department continues to improve its programs to benefit its members. 🙏



Glaziers Union to Launch Journeyperson Upgrade Classes

Even before the July 1, 2022, negotiations began, there were pressure from both the IUPAT and Hawaii Glass Metal Association to institute journeyperson upgrade language in the MLA. The Architectural Glass & Metal Technician (AGMT) started it all for the glazing contractors and during negotiations it was apparent that these owners were saying that they didn't have a problem paying higher wages, but there needed to be some justification and accountability from our Glaziers.



The AGMT certification alone wouldn't be enough. Even though they were making money they knew that not all Journeypersons were equal in knowledge. Contractors acknowledged that both the union and management were responsible for this issue. Certain companies specialized in certain aspects of the Glazing industry so these Glaziers potentially worked in this area for as long as they worked for these companies.

Some Glazing companies did only high-rise work, others concentrated on light-commercial work, some specialized in glass railings and metal paneling work, while still others did a mixture of all. Working together, management and the union came up with suitable Journeyperson upgrade language and classes designed to certify our Journeypersons in all aspects of Glazing.

All Journeypersons shall maintain their Journeyperson status

with mandatory Journeyperson retraining, which shall be determined on an annual basis by the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. All Journeypersons working under our MLA will be required to take such courses in accordance with the following rules: Topics for these Journeyperson upgrade classes and the number of classes per year will be at the recommendation of the Glaziers' JATC.

Different Journeyperson upgrade classes shall be taken each year until all topics have been completed. This process will then be repeated to include any additional topics. Some of these topics are *Blueprint reading and Layout, Caulking, Storefronts, Shower enclosures, Curtainwall, All glass door systems, and Railings*. Upgrade classes will include written and hands-on instruction. To ensure completion, a practical and written test will be administered at the end of the course.

These Journeyperson upgrade classes are designed to teach or refresh Journeymen in these areas. Any Journeyperson can just take the test in these classifications and, once they pass, they will receive a certificate of completion and will not have to go through with the whole course. These courses will ensure that the Journeyperson will be certifiable after completion.

After much consideration, Brant Arelliano, a 36-year Leadman Journeyperson Glazier, has been selected as our Journeyperson instructor. We are in the process of acquiring material for these classes and will commence our first course shortly after. Initially, the first classes offered will be voluntary. As time progresses, it will be mandatory for all Journeypersons. We are already receiving requests from Journeypersons wanting to be in the first class.

Our goal is to be able to teach these same courses in our Apprenticeship Program and certify our Apprentices as they become Journeypersons. 🧐

FTI 5012 AGMT Proctor Certification

On June 14–15, 2023, District Council 50 sent Glazier apprenticeship instructors Freddie Bermudes, Orlando Gante and Brandon Perez to the International Training Center in Baltimore, Maryland to become certified AGMT proctors.

The training would allow these three individuals to certify District Council 50 Glazier members. The two-day training course consisted of Curtainwall: testing, layout and hands-on practical; Full Body Harness: testing, layout and hands-on practical. Day 2 consisted of Storefront/Entrance: hands on practical; Sealant: testing, hands-on practical and course certification exam: written and practical.

All three instructors successfully passed the certification test and will now serve as proctors for future AGMT certifications. For those interested, the next AGMT certification will be held in November. 🧐



Union Painters Return to the Royal Kaanapali

After devastating fires swept through historic Lahaina Town, the Royal Kaanapali Hotel has allowed Swinerton to move forward with its renovation project. This allows our construction industry to pick up some of the impact caused by the downfall of tourism on Maui due to the fire.

The three painting companies on this project are all union painting companies that have projects statewide. They are JD Painting (exterior of cottages), WE Painting (Interior cottages) and Zelinsky Painting (exterior of hotel). 🙏



Union painters get ready to start the day.



Our prayers go out to all Lahaina families that have been affected by the fire!

Kaulu by Gentry in Kapolei

Gentry Homes Ltd., a well-known innovator in housing development, has started work on the Kaulu Project in Kapolei. Kaulu by Gentry seeks to redefine community living by introducing a fresh standard of modern comfort and aesthetics.

Kaulu is located behind the Kapolei Costco. It features 390 homes, including a blend of 262 multi-family and 128 single-family homes designed in a "plantation" style in a pedestrian-friendly community. This project is part of the master plan for the development of the Kapolei community.

District Council 50 contractors that will be involved with the project are JDH Construction Ltd, WE Painting, Alii Glass & Metal, Inc. and Allied Flooring. Our contractors have been a part of Gentry's team from previous projects, which shows they are doing quality work and meeting the standards of the new homeowners.



This project will continue thru 2026 and will keep these crews working. Their craftsmanship and attention to detail will give many new homeowners a home to be proud of! 🙏

Welcome Sean and Mark!

District Council 50 Painters Union proudly introduces two new instructors: Sean Ho and Mark Vallejo. Sean is a foreman at Asato Painting and wants to teach up-and-coming apprentices about striping and pavement marking. Mark is a foreman at Zelinsky and wants to educate and inspire the next generation of apprentices. Both Sean and Mark are enthusiastic and ready to share the knowledge and experiences that they learned in the field and through the apprenticeship program. 🙏



Sean Ho



Mark Vallejo



International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
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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 meeting – Friday, October 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Women's Committee meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

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
Specialty Workers - LU1941	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

LARRY KAIMI BROWN, JR., PAINTERS LU1791
FARETI "FRED" FILO, FLOOR LAYERS LU1926