



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

DECEMBER 2023



**New Training Center:
On Track, On Time (See page 2)**



By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

State of the Council

“Mahalo for all the great work you do every day!”

Season's Greetings and Aloha Sisters and Brothers!

Donations to the Maui Fire

I am happy to inform you that cash donations have been made on behalf of DC50 to Hawaii State AFL-CIO President Randy Pereira and Catherine Lederer, Director of the Labor Community Services Programs (LCSP). Both organizations have worked tirelessly to support union families impacted by the Maui wildfires.

Additionally, District Council 16 and Glaziers Local Union 2001 from the Southern Nevada region made a cash donation to help union brothers and sisters on Maui. We cannot begin to MAHALO them enough for their kindness and generosity! DC50 will also



be distributing food and school supplies to those in need and will coordinate with Maui organizer Shane Awai to make it happen. We continue to pray for and support our union brothers and sisters on Maui and will work to keep them moving forward!



Annual Holiday Giveaways

A huge “Mahalo” to all of you who came out to this year’s annual holiday giveaway! It’s always great to see everyone and to give back, too! On behalf of DC50, mahalo for working hard and keeping safe throughout the year – you guys and gals rock! Thank you so much for all you do, and if there’s ever any questions or concerns please call me or drop by the office to “talk story” with me – my door’s always open!

Update on the Construction of New Training Center

I’m pleased to announce that as of November the construction of the new training center continues on track and on

schedule. The form footing cement pour is scheduled to take place at the end of the month and, subsequently, the construction of the CMU walls will begin. As you can see by the cover photo what was once our overflow parking lot is now a full blown construction site! It’s exciting to see the weekly transformation and I can hardly wait to unveil the completed project! I’ll continue to keep you updated on the progress.

Kauai Volunteer Substitute Instructor

As you know, apprentices are required to enroll in mandatory classes in order to fulfill their academic requirements. The need for instructors – especially on our Neighboring Islands – is always in high demand. In order to ensure that apprentices

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HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades

District Council 50

2240 Young Street • Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: (808) 941-0991

Ryden Valmoja

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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Vice President

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Trustee Chair

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Casey Nihipali

Trustee

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State of the Council

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receive hands-on training, I've been volunteering on the Garden Island of Kauai to work with our young members! These guys are awesome – they show up to class early, they are eager to learn, and they work hard.

With the support of Breanne Geronimo, Director of Training,

and Jennifer Defuntorum, Secretary/Office Manager, Kauai Community College, classrooms and access to hands-on learning were made possible. I'm working to find training space and instructors on all the Neighbor islands. I encourage anyone interested in becoming an instructor to reach out to me or the training department; we need your help to make sure we continue to perpetuate skilled workers who are best in the finishing trades!



NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference

I had the opportunity to attend this year's North America's Building Trades Unions – Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference in Washington, DC. This event was even more meaningful because accompanying me were our painters Shannon Perreira, Kellie Nishikida, Erika Luna, and the DC50 Women's Committee



Co-Chairs Breanne Geronimo and Lorna Woo.

This conference was amazing, energized by well over 3,500 attendees representing all trades – painters, glaziers, operators, electricians, plumbers, masons, and more! These wahine are apprentices, journeypersons, forepersons, supervisors, mothers, sisters, daughters, and aunties but, most importantly, they're darn great tradespeople. I am so privileged and fortunate to be a part of this movement and I encourage more women to consider joining us in a career in the trades!

A special shout out and "Mahalo" to Co-Chairs Madison Hull and Mandy Jo Ganieany, and members of the IUPAT Women's Committee: Brian Courtien, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer; Roxy Mejia and Rochelle Ramsey-Walker, IUPAT, District Council 51; and General President Jimmy Williams for the incredible job at the conference!

Here's wishing you and yours the very best this holiday season! Mahalo for all the great work you do every day and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2024! Take care and keep safe out there!

Ryden Valiga

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES

DISTRICT COUNCIL 50 HEALTH AND WELFARE FUNDS

The following information is provided to meet the requirement of the No Surprises Act: A Federal-State partnership to protect consumers from surprise medical bill.

For more information please visit:
<https://dc50benefits.org>

Political Department: Looking Ahead

Seasons Greetings! The holiday season is upon us with the new Hawaii Legislative Session to follow soon after. Your Political Department has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming session.

The rebuilding of Lahaina is expected to be a key issue for the Legislature in the coming session. Even before the fires had been fully extinguished, talk began of how best to rebuild the devastated community. Since then, we have seen numerous calls for expediting the rebuilding process. While we support rebuilding Lahaina as quickly as possible, we will caution our political leaders to rebuild the right way, and to ensure that our rights and protections as union trades people are not disregarded in a reckless rush to rebuild.

Next year will also be an important election year, with many significant state and county political races. Already, candidates have approached District Council 50 asking for political support in their campaigns. In the upcoming months, your Political Department will be interviewing and screening candidates to determine which ones will best serve the interests of the members.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season! 🍁

Waipahu Intermediate School Career Fair

On November 9, District Council 50 participated in the annual Waipahu Intermediate School Career Fair day. All Waipahu complex schools share a K-12 commitment to prepare students to be globally competitive, but locally committed. It is an integral part of our efforts to prepare students to be college, career and citizenship ready.



Waipahu Intermediate School has aligned with Waipahu High School's Academy school model and has begun implementing a pre-academy school design focusing on two areas called Design & Innovation and Helping People, Saving Lives.

The fair was divided into two sessions, with approximately 20 to 25 students per session. Instructor Alex Magnuson and Tapers Training Coordinator Mario

Manrique, Jr. received good feedback when the students learned about how much money they would be making at the start of their career and the great benefits that came with being a Union member. It was made clear that all trades had men and women that were very successful.

Training Coordinator Mario made taping modules with a dry-wall hole to be patched, while instructor Alex showed the students how to fix an electrical cut out, and how to fix the patch. The students had fun trying to fix the hole and to be able to use real taping mud and taping tools, they all said that taping and painting is something that they would be interested in.



The Waipahu Intermediate staff was pleased with the presentation and the hands-on projects. District Council 50 is recruiting on all the islands and asks all existing members if they know anyone who wants to earn while they learn and make a good career choice to send them their way. 🧐

Tarkett Sheet Vinyl Certification

District Council 50 Floor Layers in partnership with Tarkett will now offer a Tarkett Sheet Vinyl Select certification to all floor layer members. This will be a pass or fail certification course. The certification will last two days and consist of class instruction and an exam, as well as hands-on exposure and testing. Members taking the certification class must have the ability to install a custom inset, three wall scribe pattern scribe and heat welding vinyl. Installers that pass the course will receive a certificate from Tarkett.

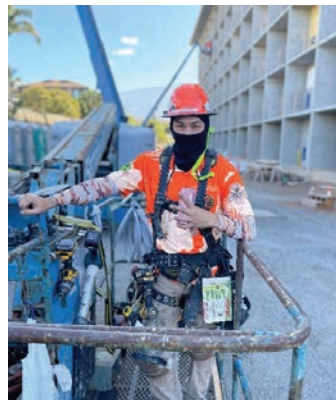
District Council 50 is proud to present its floor layers with more opportunities for training and certifications to stay competitive in a fast-changing industry. Please look for a scheduled date for the certification as the series will be limited to 10 participants for the two-day series. 🧐

Maui Boom, Booming Into the New Year

Located at 2259 South Kihei Road, the Maui Coast Hotel is a 170-room project that will provide more jobs for local people both during and after it is built. Layton Construction is the general contractor for this build and what makes it even better is that it's an all-Union job. The District



Ivaan L, Julio M, and Hugo C on stilts.



Taylor all suited up and ready to go.

Council 50 finishing trades that are part of this six-story build are Kula Glass, BEK Painters, BEK Tapers, and In-Line Floorings.

Happy Holidays everyone – and may the new year bring all of you peace, love and happiness. 🧐

Important End of Semester Reminders

As the fall semester draws to a close and the year 2023 comes to an end, we would like to remind all apprentices of the importance of adhering to the University of Hawaii's medical requirements. To register for school, it is mandatory to have the UH immunization form either filled out by your doctor or provide the proper records of your immunization history. If you need to take shots again, please note that some shots require two doses and that after the first dose there is a minimum waiting period of at least 3 – 4 weeks before taking the second dose.

As a reminder, for all apprentices attending apprenticeship school there is a minimum amount of instruction hours that must be completed each semester. Failure to complete the minimum instruction hours will result in failing the semester. Honolulu Community College strictly prohibits any smoking on campus, including vaping. Apprentices must be sure to purchase a parking permit and display it prominently on their dashboard to avoid parking tickets. Campus security at Honolulu Community College has issued hundreds of tickets for no valid parking permits.

Students are expected to be responsible in relations with other members of the UH community, respect the interests of the institution, and follow the student code of conduct while at the University. Any violation of the University's policies will result in immediate expulsion from the campus.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all next year on January 8, 2024. 🧐

NORPAC Walls & Ceilings

A warm Aloha to the newest signatory contractor to the District Council 50, Drywall Tapers, Finishers and Allied Trades Local Union 1944, and the Hawaii Wall and Ceiling Industry Association. In November 2022, NORPAC Wall and Ceiling signed a full contract.

NORPAC Walls & Ceilings was founded in 2022 by its president, Jeremiah Elsfelder, and was started after the owners of Zelinsky Co. decided to retire and start enjoying the life they had worked so hard for. The new executive team that took over the operations of Zelinsky Co. decided to focus strictly on the painting and industrial coating trades and shut down the operations of the drywall division. Jeremiah formerly worked for Creative Partitions System, Allied Builders, and Zelinsky Co, to name a few.

NORPAC received its license in the fall of 2022 and focuses on commercial, retail, hospitality, DOE, federal work, and healthcare. NORPAC oversees multiple trades and works closely with the unions

to ensure strong teams with successfully finished products for their clients.

NORPAC is licensed to do both structural and non-structural metal framing, acoustic insulation, drywall, exterior sheathing, taping/finishing, acoustic ceilings, EIFS/EIFS/Stucco/Plaster and Acoustic wall and ceiling

panels. As the company progresses, the goal is to bring in wood carpentry and finish work as well. NORPAC has been building a strong field crew that is helping to create a culture of exceeding expectations with not only the quality of work, but with the mentality of teamwork within

Painter's Apprentices Re-stripe HCC

On November 11 and 18, District Council 50 Painter's apprentices along with instructor Sean Ho re-stripped the Automotive Technology & Diesel Mechanics Facilities Parking in Lot 8 of the Honolulu Community College campus. The Apprenticeship Program helped to revitalize the parking lot while also providing hands-on experience in applying precise markings and enhancing the overall appearance and functionality of the college's parking area.



The Dean, Vice Chancellor and Head of Office, and Maintenance of Honolulu Community College were impressed with a job well done. District Council 50 would like to give instructor Sean Ho and his third semester apprentices a shout out for an amazing job and representing the Painter's apprenticeship program. 🙌



its employees.

NORPAC has retained the few remaining tapers that were employed by the Zelinsky Co. finishing their contractual obligation.

These tapers have been dependable and are now employed by NORPAC. With close to five decades of experience, these tapers are sure to make NORPAC a successful contractor. Most recently, more tapers have been referred to the company to address the company's need to staff its projects on Oahu and Maui.

Jeremiah oversees all estimating and project management for now, but NORPAC is focused on growing in the next couple of years and can assure that you will see the team growing as well. Their office and warehouse are located in the Mapunapuna area with projects all across Oahu and on the island of Maui. 🙌

Jeff Yoko: Talented Young Lion

The Glaziers' Union is proud to spotlight one of its rising stars, Jeff Yoko. Jeff is not only a hard-working Glaziers' Apprentice and Young Lion, but he is also a gifted singer, is always willing to volunteer for our numerous community service projects, and serves as an inspiration to our young Glaziers!



Born and raised in Manoa Valley, Oahu, Jeff was raised by a single mother. As a result, Jeff knew from a young age that he wanted to be able to provide for his family just as his mother provided for him.

"I've always had a passion for music since I was a child," Jeff says. "It's been one of my biggest stress relievers in my most trying times."

Jeff didn't take music seriously until he was about 20 years old. "I've been singing professionally as long as I've been a Glazier – about five years now. If my music career were to take off, I would still be a proud union member! The union has allowed me to pursue my music career and I will always be grateful for that."

Jeff says that being a Young Lion allows him to give back to his union apprentice brothers and the community. "I always wanted to be a part of the bigger picture with the union and the Young Lions is a great opportunity for that."

Jeff is an independent recording artist with his own label, Yoko Productions, which allows him to create, distribute, and market his own music. In 10 years, Jeff sees himself playing a bigger role in the union to better aid the hard-working men and women he calls his Union family. "Music will always be my first passion, but I can confidently say glazing holds the same merit in my heart. Thank you Glaziers LU1889 and DC50 for allowing me and all of our members to be a part of this wonderful family we call the Union!" 🙌

Koa Vista at Koa Ridge

Koa Vista I is a seven-story structure that will have 95 affordable rental units for seniors and one two-bedroom manager's unit. The structure will be nestled in the Koa Ridge community, conveniently located in central Oahu near shopping centers and restaurants. The 95 one-bedroom units will be rented out for about \$700 to \$1,400 a month. The units will come with disposals, range, refrigerator and window coverings. Amenities will include a community meeting room, laundry room, computer with high-speed Internet access, an open park, and a victory garden.

Koa Vista will help the elderly in the area get affordable residence in a growing community. The fee owner is Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, Inc. The general contractor is Mitsunaga Construction, Inc. The finishing trades contractors that are signatory to District Council 50 are Alfa Glass, Inc., Guy's Superior Interior, Inc., WE Painting, Inc. and Island Flooring.

Members and contractors will be able to showcase their skill and productivity in turning over quality units for seniors to live in. Members will have steady work for the duration of this project that will take them into the New Year. 🙌



Hawaii CARES

Happy holidays to all! Although this month is deemed to be a joyful one, it can also be stressful and bring about some strong negative emotions. I am writing this article to remind everyone to be aware of the importance of their well-being. I want you to know that if you are ever feeling down and out, pressured, stressed, unwanted, alone, sad or depressed to please talk to someone, anyone, about your feelings.

Besides reaching out to family and friends, there is also a hotline that you can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is called Hawaii CARES and the number to dial is 988. You can call or text and even have a live chat with them. Don't forget that we at District Council 50 are here for you to help with anything. Always be



kind to yourself, love yourself, and make your well-being a priority above anything else. Let's continue to move forward. Here we come 2024! Aloha! 🙌

Navigating Mental Health During the Holidays

The holiday season can be a time of joy and celebration, but for many in the construction industry it can also bring unique challenges that impact mental health. Construction workers often face demanding schedules, physical strain, and the pressure to meet deadlines, which can become even more pronounced during the holiday season. In this article, we'll explore these challenges and provide tips on how workers and employers can navigate them.

Construction workers may experience heightened stress and workload during the holidays due to the need to complete projects before year-end. The pressure to meet deadlines can be compounded by personal holiday responsibilities such as shopping and family gatherings. To address this challenge, construction companies can consider offering flexible work schedules or temporary staff support during peak holiday periods. Workers should also prioritize self-care and time management to balance work and personal commitments.

Many construction projects require workers to be away from their families for extended periods, leading to feelings of loneliness and homesickness during the holidays. Employers can help combat loneliness by fostering a sense of community among workers through holiday-themed events or virtual celebrations. Staying connected with loved ones through video calls and messages can also provide emotional support.

The holidays can be financially challenging for construction workers, especially if they've faced seasonal layoffs or reduced hours. The pressure to buy gifts and participate in holiday festivities can lead to financial strain and anxiety. Employers can offer financial wellness resources, such as budgeting workshops or access to employee assistance programs, to help workers manage their finances during the holidays. Encouraging open communication about financial concerns can also reduce stress among employees.

The holiday season in the construction industry brings its own set of mental health challenges, including increased stress, isolation, financial strain, and weather-related hazards. It's crucial for both employers and workers to be proactive in addressing these challenges. The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) "IUPAT Helping Hands" initiative plays a vital role in providing support and resources to workers facing mental health issues during this time. By promoting a supportive work environment, offering resources, and encouraging open communication, the construction industry can ensure that its workers have a healthier and happier holiday season. Remember, mental health matters, and seeking help when needed is a sign of strength. If you or a loved one needs immediate assistance, please call the number on the back of your health insurance card pertaining to mental/behavioral health or substance abuse services. 🙌

IUPAT District Council 50

2240 Young St. Honolulu, HI 96826

www.DC50.org

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2024

Monday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 19	President's Day
Friday, March 29	Good Friday (<i>Glaziers LU 1889 only</i>)
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Tuesday, June 11	King Kamehameha I Day
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 2	Labor Day
Monday, October 14	Discoverers Day (<i>Glaziers LU 1889 only</i>)
Monday, November 11	Veteran's Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day



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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

MATHEW K. HAILI, FLOOR LAYERS LU1926

JOHN MIRANDA, JR.