



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

JULY 2026

One Union
One Ohana
One Fight



STATE OF THE COUNCIL



Aloha Brothers, Sisters, and Members of District Council 50,

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your new Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer. I am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me, and I do not take this responsibility lightly.

Like many of you, I have spent my career working in our trades, understanding the challenges, sacrifices, and pride that come with earning a living through skilled union labor. Our members are the foundation of this organization, and everything this council does must be focused on protecting and advancing your interests.

As we move forward together, my commitment is simple: to lead with integrity, transparency, accountability, and respect. I believe in maintaining an open-door policy and ensuring that every member feels heard. Whether you are a journeyperson, apprentice, material handler, retiree, or contractor, your voice matters. Every member should feel free to contact me anytime about anything at (808) 425-8999.

Our union has a strong history built by the leaders and members who came before us. We owe it to them—and to future generations—to continue strengthening our union through organizing, training, political engagement, and market growth. We must remain united in our efforts to secure good wages, strong benefits, safe working conditions, and equal opportunities for our members and their families.

In the months and years ahead, my focus will be on:

- Growing market share and creating more work opportunities.
- Strengthening our apprenticeship and training programs.
- Improving communication and member engagement.
- Ensuring responsible stewardship of union resources.
- Building stronger relationships with labor, industry, and community partners.
- Preparing the next generation of union leaders.

No single person builds a successful union. Success comes from members standing together with a common purpose. I am fortunate to work alongside a dedicated staff, officers, trustees, and members who share that commitment.

I am excited about the future of District Council 50 and the opportunities ahead for our Painters, Drywall Finishers, Glaziers, Floor Layers and Specialty Workers throughout Hawaii. Thank you for your support, your hard work, and your dedication to our union. I look forward to meeting more of you in the field, at union meetings, training classes, and community events.

Together, we will continue building a stronger District Council 50 for all members and for generations to come.

One Union One Ohana One Fight In Solidarity,

Douglas Kema Jr.

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

District Council 50

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

The strength of our union is not found in one leader—it is found in the unity, skill, and commitment of our members. 🤝



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

Douglas Kema, Jr.

Business Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer

Robin Schlitzkus

President

Dwayne Arelliano

Vice President

Angelo Canionero, Jr.

Trustee Chair

Brant Arelliano

Trustee

Casey Nihipali

Trustee

Kurt Nishimura

Trustee

www.dc50.org

Expanding Opportunities:

WHY EIFS TRAINING BELONGS IN OUR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The construction industry is constantly evolving, and today's workforce must be prepared to meet the demands of increasingly complex projects. For Drywall Finishers and Tapers, versatility has become one of the most valuable skills a craftworker can possess. While traditional drywall finishing remains the foundation of our trade, expanding apprenticeship training to include Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) can provide apprentices with additional skills that increase their value to contractors and create new opportunities throughout their careers.

EIFS has become a widely used exterior cladding system in both commercial and residential construction due to its energy efficiency, design flexibility, and durability. As building owners and developers continue to prioritize energy performance and sustainability, the demand for skilled EIFS applicators continues to grow. By incorporating EIFS training into our apprenticeship program, we can ensure that our apprentices are prepared to work on a broader range of projects and meet the evolving needs of the construction industry.

A well-rounded apprentice becomes a more valuable asset on any job site. Apprentices who understand both interior finishing systems and exterior cladding applications can contribute to multiple phases of construction without requiring additional specialized labor. This versatility improves workforce flexibility, enhances productivity, and allows contractors to pursue a wider variety of projects. A crew capable of performing drywall finishing, decorative finishes, and EIFS installation provides significant value to contractors while helping maintain work opportunities for our members.

Beyond increasing employability, EIFS training can strengthen long-term career stability. Construction markets naturally experience fluctuations, and workers with diverse skill sets are often better positioned to remain employed



during slow periods. Apprentices trained in multiple systems can transition more easily between residential, commercial, interior, and exterior work, providing greater flexibility throughout their careers. Additionally, exposure to advanced systems and specialized applications can create pathways to leadership roles, including foreman positions, project management opportunities, estimating, and contractor ownership.

Expanding apprenticeship training also helps attract and retain the next generation of skilled tradespeople. Today's apprentices are looking for opportunities to develop marketable skills and build meaningful careers. Offering training in specialized systems such as EIFS demonstrates a commitment to workforce development and continuous learning. When apprentices see opportunities to grow beyond traditional trade boundaries, they are more likely to remain engaged and committed to the industry.

Implementing EIFS training would align with the broader mission of preparing apprentices for success in a modern construction environment. Through partnerships with contractors, manufacturers, instructors, and industry organizations, we can provide apprentices with hands-on experience, technical knowledge, and exposure to current industry practices. This investment not only benefits individual apprentices but also strengthens the competitiveness of our contractors and the reputation of our apprenticeship program.

As our industry continues to evolve, so too must our approach to training. By incorporating EIFS into our apprenticeship curriculum, we can build a more skilled, adaptable, and resilient workforce prepared to meet the challenges of today's construction industry and the opportunities of tomorrow. Investing in broader training today will help ensure that our apprentices become the highly skilled craftspeople and leaders our industry will depend on for years to come. 🛠️

THE ROLE OF A UNION ORGANIZER

A union organizer plays an important role in helping workers come together to improve their working conditions, wages, benefits, and workplace rights. Through organizing, employees gain a collective voice and the ability to address concerns as a group.

As union organizers, our job is to build relationships with workers, listen to their concerns, educate them about their rights, and help them understand the benefits of collective

action. We support workers through organizing campaigns, coordinate meetings, answer questions, and encourage participation in union activities.

Union organizers also help strengthen solidarity among coworkers by fostering communication, trust, and teamwork. By empowering workers to stand together, union organizers help create fairer, safer, and more respectful workplaces for everyone. 🛠️

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Political Department was busy this year with two key issues in the Hawaii State Legislature: modular housing and campaign finance reform.

Many legislators see modular housing as a cheap, quick fix for Hawaii's housing crisis. Modular, or prefabricated, housing comes in many different forms. In almost all forms, the housing components are constructed in a factory on the mainland or in a foreign country, and are shipped to Hawaii pre-finished. These prefabricated components are then assembled on the jobsite.

The 2026 Legislative Session saw a strong push for modular housing. Bills that opened the door to the expanded use of modular housing in Hawaii flew through the Legislature at breakneck speed. Almost none of these bills were referred to the labor committees of the House of Representative and the Senate, despite the fact that modular construction places our union construction jobs (labor) at risk of losing work.

What many politicians either do not see or refuse to acknowledge is that modular housing would decrease the demand for tradespersons on the job and cut our hours in the field. Also, there is no assurance that local people will even have the opportunity to do the finish work in factories, since the vast majority of modular housing systems come from the mainland or foreign countries.

Thankfully, legislators we have supported in the past, Senator Stanley Chang in particular, stood by us in our fight to preserve our work. These bills foundered this year when they were changed to just studies or failed to get a hearing in committee.

We have not seen the end of this threat, however, and we anticipate that there will be another concerted effort next session to open the door to more modular housing. We will continue to fight against modular housing, but we will need your support to succeed.

The Department was also focused on Senate Bill 2471, which addressed campaign finance reform. The bill passed despite our attempts to kill or amend it, and became Act 11 (2026) when it was signed into law by Governor Josh Green on May 14, 2026.

On the mainland, the ability of very large corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money on television, radio and social media advertisements in support of the candidate of their choice has given them an extreme and unfair ability to influence the political process.

Act 11 is intended to eliminate the ability of corporations from participating in any election activity in Hawaii. Unfortunately, because the bill flew through the Legislature so fast, and without significant input from unions and others, the language of the bill creates many grey areas, which could result in significant and harmful, if unintended, consequences. One of those consequences is that unions, like ours, could be prohibited from making contributions to political candidates whom we rely on to protect us and improve our lives.

Act 11 does not go into effect until July 1, 2027, which is after the end of next year's session, so there will be another chance to kill or amend it next year. As with modular housing, we will continue the fight to ensure we have the ability to speak for you in the political area, but we will need your support in order to succeed.

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2026 CAMPAIGN SEASON

In the 2026 election cycle, the Primary election date is August 8, 2026 and the General election date is November 3, 2026. The deadline for candidates to file papers to be eligible for election was May 2, 2026.

The Department has begun the process of interviewing candidates who are seeking our unions' political support. Our process entails an interview of candidates by the members of our Political Action Committee, who are responsible for choosing candidates to endorse and determining the level of support for each candidate. When it comes to campaign contributions, Local Unions 1791, 1944, 1889 and 1926 have funds used to make monetary contributions to candidates. The PAC Committee determines an appropriate level of support for each candidate and brings its recommendations to the membership of each Local Union for ratification.

As of the date of writing of this article, DC50 and its Local Unions have decided to endorse the following candidates in the 2026 elections:

Congressional District 1	Urban Oahu	Jarrett Keohokalole
Congressional District 2	Rural Oahu, Neighbor Islands	Jill Tokuda
Maui Mayor	Maui County	Yuki Lei Sugimura
Kauai Mayor	Kauai County	Bernard Carvalho
House District 18	Portlock, Hawai'i Kai, Kalama Valley	Jamie Wataru
House District 40	Wai'alaē-Kāhala, 'Āina Haina, Niu Valley, Kuli'ou'ou	Julie Reyes-Oda
House District 46	Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Launani Valley, Mokuleia, Wailua	Amy Perusso
Senate District 19	Pearl City, Waipahu, West Loch Estates, Hono'uli'uli, Ho'opili	Rachel Lamasao
Senate District 20	'Ewa Beach, Ocean Pointe, 'Ewa by Gentry, Iroquois Point, 'Ewa Villages	Kurt Fevella

The process is ongoing and is expected to continue through the month of June 2026. The Political Department will release a full list of all of the candidates that it endorses prior to the Primary and General elections.

We want to take this time to reemphasize how much politics matters. As you can see from this report, as a union, we need to ensure that the politicians we vote for understand and support our most important concerns. If we don't participate in the process, we run the risk of losing our rights or our jobs. On August 8, 2026, make sure that you vote for politicians who will stand with you when it comes to preserving your rights and your jobs.. 🗳️

CONGRATULATION DC50 FLOORLAYERS APPRENTICES

Congratulations to District Council 50 Floorlayers apprentices! Every long day, every challenge, and every lesson has shaped you into the skilled and determined person you are today. This achievement is more than a title, it's proof of your hard work, resilience, and commitment to your future. Keep believing in yourself, continue learning and never stop striving for excellence. Your journey is only beginning, and great things are ahead of you. 📖



PROUD MOMENT FOR THE SPRING 2026 GRADUATING CLASS



From left to right: Christopher Castillo, Andrew Setefano, Brandon Perez (Instructor), Neil Marugame, Angus Langsi, Ieke Seei-Cleveland, Travis Yu, Freddie Bermudes (Training Coordinator) and Dwayne Arelliano (Director of Servicing).

We are extremely proud to recognize the most recent graduating apprenticeship class. The Spring 2026 graduating class consists of six dedicated apprentices who have successfully completed their apprenticeship program.

Through years of hard work, commitment, and determination, these apprentices have reached an important milestone in their careers. Their successful completion of the apprenticeship program reflects not only their technical skills and knowledge, but also their dedication to the Glaziers trade.

As they move forward in their careers, they will continue their journey toward becoming highly skilled and respected Glaziers, contributing to the future of our industry and carrying on the traditions of craftsmanship and professionalism.

Congratulations to the Spring 2026 Graduating Class. Your accomplishments are a testament to your perseverance and commitment, and we look forward to seeing your continued success in the years ahead.

Congratulations, Graduates! 📖



A member's journey from Job Corps to becoming a union journeyman is a testament to the value of hard work, perseverance, and opportunity. We are proud to acknowledge Kalaikuwekiu Au-Stien. After gaining foundational skills through Job Corps, he entered a rigorous four-year Painters Union apprenticeship program where he balanced classroom instruction, on-the-job training, and the daily challenges of the trade. The path was not always easy, requiring dedication, discipline, and a commitment to continuous learning, but he remained focused on his goal. Through determination and the support of mentors and fellow union members, he successfully completed the program and earned Journeyman status, proving that while the journey may be challenging, it is achievable for those willing to put in the effort. 📖

Celebrating Excellence:

IUPAT JOB CORPS INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

Aloha DC50 Members,

Please join us in congratulating **Instructor Arnold Inagaki**, who was recently honored as the **IUPAT Job Corps National Instructor of the Year** at the April 2026 training seminar. Serving as both a Job Corps instructor and a DC50 Painter's Apprenticeship instructor, Arnold continues to set the standard through his dedication to training, mentorship, and student success.

This achievement reflects not only Arnold's commitment, but also the strength of our partnership with **Hawaii Job Corps and DC50**, and the quality of our training programs. We are proud to see one of our own recognized at the national level. Congratulations, Arnold—your work represents the very best of DC50. 🙌



KUILEI PLACE



The construction of Kuilei Place has begun and is moving along. Two towers will have a total of 1005 affordable and Market price units with one, two and three bedrooms. Development of this project on the size of the property will help many more families will be able to live in a convenient area with nearby schools, parks and shopping not to mention the beaches. For our finishing trades and construction workers this means a lot of jobs will be created that will span several years. The structures are just beginning, and our trades will be there to start their respective trades soon. Members that get to work on this project can look forward to contributing to turning over a much needed and desirable project for the new owners to appreciate. This project will also give the existing area an upgraded look and feel for the people that live and pass by while driving. 🙌

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HOONANI VILLAGE



Hoonani Village is a proposed development of approximately 1600 units made up of 9 phases. Estimated time is roughly 15 years.

The project is currently navigating its way through land use and zoning designations. The project has already been reviewed by the Maui County Council and the Planning Commission. The project will return to the State Land Use Commission following publication of the final Environment Impact Statement anticipated in September and it will then go back to Council.

The District Council 50 Organizing Department was fortunate to have sat with the developer Matthew Pennaz and discussed our support for the project. We also had an awesome conversation to have our finishing trades be a part of the Hoonani Village build. Hoonani will not only help with Maui's housing shortage. It will help create jobs for our members and our community. 🙌

FOOD DRIVE



Another resourceful fun year to donate my time in volunteering to help with the Food Bank. It's such a vital role to help make an impact on lives in the community who need the support the most, including some of our union brothers and sisters.

With the new Presidency with food prices along everything else rising, the help from this agency is critical.

I attended the Food Drive on May 9,

2026, along with my co-workers and some of our apprentices in our four trades. Our shift started at 3 PM – 6:30 PM. At the completion of the shift we took pictures and enjoyed snacks.

The support from our union for this drive demonstrated teamwork and professionalism, ranging from sorting donations and packing boxes to distribution to those who need it in our community, like our Keiki's, Kupuna's

and working families facing rough times.

It makes me feel genuinely good and humble with great satisfaction to have a strong connection to such a great cause and to give back when we can. Be thankful for all that you have that you are blessed with.

Our Union did such an amazing job volunteering in this program, it's goes to show brotherhood and solidarity. 🙌

LILOA HALE



This project located in the heart of Kihei has been in the making for some time now. It has 117 units, that will be able to house many of our

Kupuna of Maui. We are very proud to announce that we have all four of our finishing crafts on this project and we are moving right on schedule. This



housing is hopefully one of many that will provide service to our community and continue to bring hope to our beautiful Maui nui a kama. 🙌



International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
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Wanted: Please submit new clips, photos and articles on special events to: vpinho@dc50.org

DISTRICT COUNCIL 50 MEETINGS

- District Council 50 Membership meeting- changed to Saturday, October 17, 2026, 8:00 a.m., in-person at the DC50 Hall
- Young Workers Committee meetings- Date and Times- TBD
- Women's Committee meetings- Date and Times- TBD

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

DRYWALL TAPERS FINISHERS LOCAL UNION 1944

- Membership meetings- second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 Hall

GLAZIERS, ARCHITECTURAL METAL AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL UNION 1889

- Executive Board meetings- Second to the last Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m., at the DC50 Hall
- Membership meetings- Last Thursday of the month at 4:45 p.m., at the DC50 hall

CARPET, LINOLEUM AND SOFT TILE LOCAL UNION 1926

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

Outer island members may attend via zoom. Please call the Union office to register.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday:
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday:
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 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

DC50 Joint Apprenticeship Training (808) 947-6606
(808) 941-0991, Option 2

ADMIN TEAM

Meet Vi, Lesley, Gloria, Juan, and Vanessa. Together they are the backbone of the Council's daily support operations. For assistance with office services and general support, call us- we're here to help. 🙌



IN MEMORIAM

Stacy Young
Glaziers Local Union 1889

Eric Nieto
Former member of Floor
Layers Local Union 1926