



# THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

MARCH 2020

## State of the Council

By Ryden Valmoja

DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

### **Aloha Brothers and Sisters:**

First and foremost, I want to assure all of you that your union's admin staff, business representatives, political department and training coordinators are continuing to work in support of all of you. Although the admin staff must now work remotely, they continue to answer messages and questions. When calling the office, please remember to leave a detailed message and someone will respond to you ASAP! Business Representatives (BR) are visiting jobsites. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your BR – they are on call for you 24/7.

These islands that we call home and the world in which we live are going through things that we've never experienced before. Updates from state, county and federal governments change daily, sometimes even hourly. It's important that we all stay connected, well-informed and prepared to respond accordingly.

A lot of jobsites are closing, but projects such as rail construction continue to move forward. According to Governor Ige's Third Supplemental Proclamation, dated March 23, 2020, construction trades workers are considered essential workers. I urge all of you

*Continued on Page 2*

## We Must Stand Together

By Ken Rigmaiden

IUPAT General President

### **Dear IUPAT Signatory:**

Whatever language we speak, whatever craft we represent. Man, woman, healthy, sick or injured. We must take care of each other. Together, we can get through this. Please let me share with you the actions that IUPAT and NABTU are taking.

First, IUPAT is looking at waiving per capita payments for April for all members and has immediately granted a waiver for April, May and June for all tradeshow workers. We are looking at our finances month-by-month to ensure proper financial oversight for the International Union and all of our District Councils.

Second, IUPAT has been in the forefront of seeking emergency legislation that will provide relief for our industries. Our program focuses on:

- Immediate unemployment to laid-off construction workers at 100 percent wages.
- Continued health coverage so no worker goes uninsured during the crisis.
- Assistance to retirement plans so they may survive the crisis.
- Investment in infrastructure to put construction workers back on

*Continued on Page 2*



# BOLD ACTION FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS



# State of the Council

*“It’s important that we all stay connected, well-informed and prepared to respond accordingly.”*

By Ryden Valmoja  
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

## State of the Council

*Continued from Cover Page*

to check in with your supervisors daily to get updated status on the job. If your project has not closed, please report to work. Be mindful of social distancing, wash your hands, and do not share food or drinks.

Our government affairs department and agents have been working hard to get messages out to all of you to ask for your help in engaging Congress by signing a petition, letter or making a phone call. This demand to Congress is to ensure that all laid-off construction workers receive unemployment compensation at 100 percent wages; health coverage so that no worker goes uninsured during the crisis; assistance to retirement plans so that they may survive the crisis; and an investment in infrastructure to quickly put construction workers back on the job as soon as possible.

Our crafts need to be included in the proposed stimulus package that is currently being discussed. I will continue to keep you updated on its progress. On a side note, mahalo to all of our members who took the time to create personal videos on how the pandemic has affected them and their families. Those videos were shared on our International Union’s social media platforms which were then shared many times throughout the country – thank you so much for getting the message out!

Mahalo to the Hawaii State AFL-CIO Labor Community Services Committee (LCSC) for organizing food distribution and utility assistance being made available to members. These programs are subject to change. If there are changes in the distribution schedule, we will post the updates to our DC50 Instagram and Facebook pages (tentative schedule, page 3).

Thank you again for all your support and patience during these trying times. Please remember to work safe, keep your families and friends safe, and don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. 🙌

*Ryden Valmoja*

## Stand Together

*Continued from Cover Page*

*the job as soon as possible.*

We hope you will join us in advocating that, this time, the government not leave the construction industry behind.

Third, we must continue our efforts at workforce development to ensure that when things turn around (as they will), we will have the trained workforce to capture an increased share of the market. Toward that end, we are focusing our efforts on distance learning and certifications supporting the industry in order to be prepared. I welcome your input and ask for your support in these efforts. 🙌



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*

**John D. Frigillana, Jr.**

*President*

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**Angelo Canionero, Jr.**

*Trustee*

**Ikaika Lacson**

*Trustee*

**Casey Nihipali**

*Trustee*

**Kurt Nishimura**

*Trustee, Chair*

[www.dc50.org](http://www.dc50.org)

## Tentative Food Distribution Schedule

Food distribution sites will be set-up on all islands and we currently still need volunteers for all islands. However, if you are ill, please do not volunteer. Schedules will be sent to union leadership and posted on our website: <https://lcsp84.wixsite.com/website/>

The aim is for weekly distribution, but there are no guarantees going forward, since we don't know how much food supply the food banks will have. MAHALO NUI LOA for your help.

### OAHU VOLUNTEERS:

Place: HGEA, 888 Mililani Street.  
Please park on the HGEA ramp  
Date: Saturday, 3/28/2020, 4/4/2020 (tentative), 4/11/2020 (tentative), 4/18/2020 (tentative)  
Time: Report at 8:00 a.m. for staging  
9:00-12:00 Distribution  
Number of boxes: 200 (1 box per family of 3 or less, 2 boxes for families of 4 or more)  
Leaders: Kevin Hirayama and Dion Dizon  
Current # of volunteers: 6

### KAUAI VOLUNTEERS:

Place: UPW Hall, 4211 Rice Street, Lihue HI 96766  
Date: Saturday, 3/28, 4/4 (tentative), 4/11 (tentative), 4/18 (tentative)  
Time: Report at 8:15 a.m. for staging  
9:00-12:00 Distribution  
Number of boxes: 100 (1 box per family of 3 or less, 2 boxes for families of 4 or more)  
Leader: Kaulana Finn  
Currently # of volunteers: 2


### MAUI VOLUNTEERS:

Place: UPW 841 Kolu Street, Wailuku HI 96793  
Date: Thursday, 4/2, 4/9 (tentative), 4/16 (tentative), 4/23 (tentative)  
Time: Food drop off between 8:15-8:30  
9-12:00 Distribution  
Number of boxes: 200 (1 box per family; there is more food in Maui Food Boxes vs Oahu/Kauai Food Boxes)  
Leader: Deanna Davis  
Current # of volunteers: 3

### MOLOKAI and LANAI:


Still in progress

### HAWAII ISLAND:

Hawaii Food Basket will post on its website: <https://www.hawaiifoodbasket.org/>  
They are distributing from different sites on Hawaii Island. 

## Rent And Utility Assistance

Governor Ige's recent State of the Emergency declaration put a temporary hold on evictions. Due to this change, the Hawaii Employees Lifeline Program (H.E.L.P.) board has decided to temporarily suspend Rent Assistance and will instead increase the budget of our Utility Assistance Program. We hope to give some relief to people who are experiencing severe economic challenges due to the coronavirus.

This suspension and temporary assistance will be reevaluated at a later date. Requests are now being accepted. Referrals can only be submitted by affiliated union staff, who will file a Utility Assistance request form via email on behalf of the individual requiring assistance. 

## Know Your Federal Rights!

On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("Families First Act") was signed into law. This new federal law, which went into effect on April 2, 2020, provides workers with some relief from the economic effects of the coronavirus.


Generally, the Families First Act requires certain employers to provide qualified employees with emergency paid sick leave. The Families First Act also expands paid family and medical leave benefits under certain conditions due to the coronavirus. Your employer receives tax credits for benefits provided to you under this Act.

### 1. Emergency Paid Sick Leave Benefits.

Qualified employees may be eligible for up to a maximum of 80 hours of paid sick leave if the employee is unable to work due to a quarantine order, doctor's order, or is seeking medical diagnosis when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Paid sick leave at two-thirds of the employee's regular rate of pay may be available where the employee cannot work because he or she needs to care for an individual because of quarantine or needs to care for a minor whose school or childcare provider is unavailable because of COVID-19.

### 2. Emergency Family and Medical Leave Benefits.

A qualified employee may receive up to an additional 10 weeks of paid family and medical leave at two-thirds of the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee cannot work due to a need to care for a minor whose school or childcare provider is unavailable because of COVID-19.

Restrictions and exclusions on these federal rights apply, so check with your employer. You can also learn more about these rights at the U.S. Department of Labor's website at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>. 





International Union of  
Painters and Allied Trades  
District Council 50  
2240 Young Street  
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- Effective Immediately all District Council Executive Board and Local Union meetings are **CANCELED** until further notice.
- Apprenticeship training and compliance classes are **CANCELED** and will be rescheduled.
- The Learning Management System (LMS) – the online learning system – is up and running for apprentices.
- If you have questions, please call and leave a message for the Training Department: 808-947-6606 or 808-941-0991, Option 2. You can also contact your respective training coordinator (see cell phone numbers listed below).
- The union office staff is working remotely. Please leave messages at 808-941-0991 or toll free neighbor island at 877-523-9411. Admin staff members are checking messages and will respond ASAP.

#### **All Business Representatives and Training Coordinators are available to assist members.**

Painters: Chelsea Lee – 808-425-7999  
Tapers: John Frigillana, Jr. – 808-397-7725  
Glaziers: Dwayne Arelliano – 808-554-1275  
Floor Layers: Doug Kema, Jr. – 808-425-8999

#### **Training Coordinators:**

Director of Training: Sean Cordero – 808-799-8776  
Painters: Breanne Geronimo – 808-799-6523  
Tapers: Mario Manrique, Jr. – 808-799-9711  
Glaziers: Orlando Gante – 808-227-1211  
Floor Layers: Paterno Asuncion – 808-729-2920

Ryden “Bully” Valmoja, Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer – 808-294-8330

## **We Are ‘Essential Workers’**

A question that continues to flood the union hall is: “Are construction workers considered essential workers?” In accordance with Governor Ige’s Third Supplemental Proclamation, dated March 23, 2020, the construction trades are deemed “essential workers.”

*10. Critical trades. Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses and operations...*

It is very important that you keep in close communication with your supervisor on the status of jobs. If your jobsite has not shut down, please report to work. In order to slow and stop the progress of COVID-19, you should all work at least six feet apart, wash hands frequently, not share food or beverages, and not congregate in groups. If you have any questions, please call the office at 808-941-0991.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ROBERT MITSUNAGA**  
**MONTGOMERY PIA**