



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

DECEMBER 2024



Ty's Story
See page 4

2025 Holiday Calendar
See page 7



State of the Council

"We are grateful for the dedication and commitment shown by all of you throughout the year."

By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha All!

NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference – New Orleans, LA

The NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference in New Orleans stands as the largest annual Building Trades Convention that brings together tradeswomen from across the country. This event offers a unique platform for women in the building trades to share experiences, learn from industry leaders, and collaborate on initiatives within the industry. Participants attended workshops, engaged in networking sessions, and heard from inspiring keynote speakers who are paving the way for greater inclusion and diversity in the trades. The conference not only celebrates the achievements of tradeswomen but also serves as a catalyst for future advancements in the sector.



Sister Tysja "Ty" Ka'anana captivated the audience with her inspiring story. She spoke about her initial challenges in a male-dominated industry and how she overcame

them through perseverance and the support of her mentors. Her journey highlighted the importance of mentorship, diversity, and inclusion in the trades. Additionally, Sister Ty emphasized the need for more training programs and resources to encourage young women to pursue careers in construction. Her speech was met with enthusiasm and served as a powerful reminder of the progress being made and the work still needed to achieve gender equality in the trades. As the conference continued, other speakers and workshops provided further insights into the ever-evolving construction industry. Mahalo Ty for proudly representing DC50 at the conference – you're amazing!

DC50 in 2025

We are grateful for the dedication and commitment shown by all of you throughout the year. As we move forward, District Council 50 is excited to announce a series of upcoming events to foster community spirit and support. These events will include training workshops, family-friendly gatherings, and opportunities to upgrade your skills as well as professional development. Please

remember to attend your union meetings for more details and information on how you can strengthen our union ohana.

DC50 Training Center

The construction of the union training center has passed its inspection, marking a significant milestone for our council. In celebration, we will be holding a blessing ceremony to officially open the center in 2025. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for skill development and provide members with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in their trades. The training center represents our commitment to investing in the future for all members and ensuring that you have access to the best resources available. We look forward to welcoming you to

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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

John D. Frigillana, Jr.

President

Robin Schlitzkus

Vice President

Angelo Canionero, Jr.

Trustee Chair

Ikaika Lacson

Trustee

Casey Nihipali

Trustee

Kurt Nishimura

Trustee

www.dc50.org

Annual DC50 Holiday Giveaway 2024

A Season of Gratitude

It's that time of year again when the spirit of giving shines brightly! The Annual DC50 Holiday Giveaway for Painters, Glaziers, Tapers, and Floorlayers kicked off earlier than usual this year, bringing joy and appreciation to members across the islands.



The Annual DC50 Holiday Giveaway continues to be a cherished event, bringing members together in the spirit of camaraderie and appreciation. It's a heartfelt thank-you from DC50 to the hardworking Painters, Glaziers, Tapers, and Floorlayers who contribute so much throughout the year.

This year's holiday giveaway ensured that every member in good standing who attended in person received a fantastic set of gifts: six Aloha work shirts, six work shirts, and a \$100 gift card. These thoughtful gifts were distributed on designated dates and locations to ensure that all local union members on Oahu, Maui,



Kauai, Lanai, and the Big Island could participate.

As we look ahead to 2025, members can rest assured that DC50's commitment to celebrating their dedication and efforts will continue. Until then, we wish all our members a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year! 🙏

NEW TRUST FUND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Benefit and Risk Management Services (BRMS)

808-509-2992

(Painters, Tapers, & Floor Layers)

Zenith American Solutions

855-584-0109

(Glaziers)

State of the Council

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the new facility!

Mahalo for your VOTE!

Your involvement in the democratic process is crucial, and we appreciate your commitment to shaping our union's future. Although the election results were not what we had hoped, we look forward to the positive changes and initiatives that will support our district council. Together, we will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of all members and work towards a brighter future.

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of DC50, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please stay safe, take care of one another, and be thankful for all the wonderful blessings you enjoy every day! Mahalo for supporting our union – let's proudly stand together as "One Union, One Family, One Fight!"

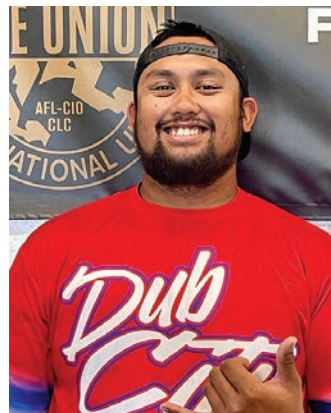
Ryder Valenzuela

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

*All members will be required to pay
\$0.15 IUPAT administrative dues
For every hour worked.*

National Apprenticeship Week 2024

Darwin Feliciano: "Being in this apprenticeship program enables me to provide for my family financially and helps to secure my future. My friend Justus introduced me to flooring and it turns out that I like it. I ended up joining the union and now I see it as my career. I learned a lot about leadership that will benefit me as I grow."



Jalen Galon: "Apprenticeship is important to me because it's the start of my future. Not only will it benefit me but my ohana as well. Joining an apprenticeship program will help you master your trade, and you'll also make new friends that will eventually become like your family. I thank Jen Jen Gali for introducing me to Local 1926." 🙏

Ty's Story

Note: The 14th Annual Tradeswomen Build National Conference was held September 27-29, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. The event drew over 5,000 attendees from all over the U.S. and Canada, mainly women in the construction trades – from painters, carpenters, ironworkers, and more. During the IUPAT's caucus session, painter apprentice Tysja Ka'anana was invited to share her journey into the finishing trades. This is her story.

Aloha! My name is Tysja Ka'anana. At work people call me "Ty." I was born and raised in a town called Wailuku on the island of Maui.

I've been a painter for about three years but in the union for just one year. It's been a journey. At one of our quarterly Women's Committee meetings I heard the saying, "Painting chose me." It is a saying that applies to me.

In 2021, I didn't know that my lifelong dream of becoming a professional soccer player would end at the age of 19. COVID hit, and I couldn't play the sport I loved. My whole world was put on pause. What else was there for me to do?

After taking every major offered at my community college – engineering, agriculture, computer engineering, business – I decided that school was not for me. Then, after working three jobs, painting found me. It was the beacon I needed to light my path toward becoming a painter.

It started off as a summer job working with my friends on an all-girl crew for a non-union company called LJ Customs under my greatest inspiration, Leo. We would always hear people ask, "an all-girl crew?" as if it was a bad thing, but Leo would always step up and say, "They get the job done on time and with great detail!" He made painting enjoyable, motivating, and exciting, so that's when I decided I wanted this to be my life work – a woman working in construction. When Leo passed away in 2023, I wanted more than anything to keep his legacy alive but had no idea how.

Then I got a call from another one of my mentors, Shane Awai. Shane asked if I wanted to come work for the union, District Council 50. "What's that?" I asked. "Trust me it'll change your life," he said. I was skeptical at first, but then it really did change my life. Shane guided me through it all and until today always tells me to try my best because as long as I'm trying, I'm improving. On rough days he was like a coach giving a halftime pep talk. He made me feel like I could do anything I put my mind to and reminded me to never give up. "Show them what women can do and that you can do what any guy can do!" he would say.

I remember my first day on the job felt like my first day at school: learning the lingo, finding out where to eat lunch, and where the bathroom was LOL! It was mind-blowing how many trades were all in one place at the same time and how few women there were on the jobsite. Being a part of a community overcrowded by men was totally different from what I was used to – not only the work ethic it took to work in the union but how hard I had to work to prove myself.

Soon, however, I was blessed to meet another one of my great mentors, Lorna Woo. She was there to reassure me that I wasn't alone. She told me it might seem like it but you're not the only one. She's like the best friend that's one call away no matter where she is or what's she's doing. Lorna later introduced me to our Women's



Committee in Hawaii. She also blessed me with the opportunity to meet all of you women here today.

In time, I learned the ins and outs of the trade. I was blessed with an amazing crew that knows what I can do and never doubts my ability to get the job done. I've gained the trust and respect of the men, but don't get me wrong. I am always striving to do better in any way possible.

Mentorship to me is like having a guardian angel making sure I'm on the right path, watching over me and making sure I don't develop any bad habits. Mentorship provides that support you never knew you needed, but it's there when you need it, there when you don't, and there when you least expect it. Each of my mentors: Shane, Lorna, Bully, and Shannon not only mentored me on what it's like being a part of this great community called our union but also what it's like to be a proud and committed trades woman.

I've heard stories and have experienced for myself the downside of being a woman on a job site. It can get frustrating and deflating. Today, however, I get to be here with you all. Today you guys make me strong, proud, and motivated to be a woman in this community I like to call a sisterhood or what we like to say in Hawaii, "ohana (family)." From now on I'm not alone, I'll never be alone!

Mahalo (thank you) for listening to my story! 🙏

Floor Layers Report

Lucky we live in Hawaii where we are blessed to have the values of Aloha woven into our work force – values such as respect and ohana. This is the true heart and soul that makes working in Hawaii so unique. For one thing, we get to work on diverse project types, including residential, commercial, infrastructure development, hospitality and military projects.

Another benefit of working in Hawaii is that we have politicians who implement strict laws that protect both contractors and workers. They also approve state Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) that help our union secure jobs. PLAs are collective bargaining agreements that set the terms and conditions for construction projects using union contractors. Currently, we are working with the state, federal, construction generals, hotels and all military bases. What we have thus far is a 50-year agreement with Actus Lens Lease, one of the biggest generals that work strictly on military bases, and a 20-year agreement with Kamehameha Schools.

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Kaiaulu O Kuku'ia

After the Maui wildfire in 2023, displaced residents and families faced a shortage of rental housing. The Kaiaulu O Kuku'ia project will provide affordable rentals in the area, while the community rebuilds what was lost in the fire. The Kaiaulu O Kuku'ia development will include 100 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units divided into three neighborhoods. It will have two com-



munity centers with technology centers, game rooms, and kitchens. There will be gardens with walking paths, BBQ areas, and onsite parking and laundry facilities.

Construction on Kaiaulu O Kuku'ia will continue into late 2025. The developer is Ikaika Ohana, and the management company is ThirtyOne50 Management. General contractor is Maryl Group, Inc., and the finishing trades contractors are Creative Partitions Systems and WE Painting. The finishing trades will bring life to this project and help ease the housing shortage for the people of Lahaina, Maui. 🏡

Pu'uhona Homestead

The Department of Hawaiian Homelands awarded a number of homes to be built in Waikapu, Maui. District Council 50 members are blessed to take part in this project. Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. is the general contractor that has been



awarded the first phase for Pu'uhona. Although this project has faced its share of setbacks along the way, it now looks as though there is good momentum moving forward. The civil work has been done and housing pads are being formed and will be ready to pour as soon as December 2024. 🏡

Ka la'i ola 'The place of peaceful recovery'

Ka la'i ola is a temporary housing project designed to house up to 1,500 Lahaina fire survivors for up to five years. When completed, it will feature 450 modular homes. Ka la'i ola stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of the Maui community. It is a place where healing can begin and the spirit of Aloha can continue to thrive even in the face of adversity.

After the Lahaina fire destroyed structures and devastated families, the State of Hawaii, Maui County, State Human Services, Hawaii Community Foundation, and Home Aid Hawaii partnered to



organize the development of Ka la'i ola. Goodfellow and Nordic PCL Construction, Inc. played crucial roles in the construction planning.

Groundbreaking took place on April 30, 2024. JD Painting and Decorating earned the opportunity to provide services for the project. The company has several workers whose families were affected by the fire, and they are grateful to be working on the project. John Adams once wrote, "To be good, and to do good, is all we have to do." 🙏

Kauai Career Construction Day

District Council 50 participated in Career Construction Day on Kauai. The event provided hands-on activities, workshops, and networking opportunities for students, job seekers, and professionals to connect with local construction companies, industry experts, and trade organizations. Attendees learned about career pathways, training programs, and job opportunities while experienc-



ing the tools and skills used in the field. The Career Construction Day aims to build interest in construction trades, address workforce needs, and support the local economy on Kauai. 🏡

Making a Difference

District Council 50 recently supported a youth football team in Wahiawa by not only donating time and resources, but also showcasing its skilled craftsmanship by painting a container donated by ILWU, Local 142 that will serve as a storage unit for the team's equipment. This initiative reflects DC50's commitment to uplifting the communities where its members live and work. The project was led by union members Po'okela Banis-Chun and Juan Coria.



Football teams are a vital part of the community, providing children and teens with an outlet for personal growth. Painting the container also served as a teaching moment, showcasing the union's professional skills while inspiring young athletes to appreciate the value of hard work. The partnership between DC50 and the Wahiawa football team exemplifies how local organizations can make a difference in the community. 🤝

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Floor Layers Report

Continued from Page 4.

Lastly, we have a signed PLA with DR Horton, one of the largest home builders in Hawaii. In 2020, DR Horton built over 12,000 new homes on Oahu. It included condominiums, townhomes, single family homes and flex homes, mixed use units for residential and business, schools and parks. All of this work needs to be union. We will continue to have conversations and be committed to getting more PLAs for our contractors and members.

Flooring work in Hawaii continues to grow. Following COVID, working hours and membership have gone up. Hotels and hospitals are being renovated now more than ever and high rises are being built at a rate of four to five per year. The market share is dominated



by the floor layers union.

Training for floor layers keeps improving. Upgrade training is offered for our journey workers and four years of school for our apprentices. Our council just completed a brand-new upgraded training center on Oahu that will be available for all levels of installers. This training center will have multiple mockups and a variety of materials to install. It will have updated tools and we will soon start our master certification for carpet, hard surface and combo.

In closing, just remember to treat people with respect, say "WE" instead of "I" and live Aloha. 🤝

Exoskeleton: Tool of the Future

The Exoskeleton is a new ergonomic construction tool that Tapers and Painters will love. We first saw this product at the Tapers show in Las Vegas in March 2023.

Looking like something straight out of a sci-fi movie, the Exoskeleton significantly reduces the load on a worker's shoulder muscles, enhances endurance, and reduces fatigue when sanding or painting walls and ceilings. The Exoskeleton slides on like a backpack and adjusts to a user's height and body type for an ergonomic fit.

The Exoskeleton doesn't come cheap, but increasing manpower without extra headcount could make it worth the price. The HILTI brand costs around \$1,600 and the Festool brand is around \$3,500. We are planning to get a couple of them for our apprenticeship training. 🤖



Uncle Billy's Kona Bay Hotel: An Icon Rejuvenated

Built in the early 1960s, the hotel at the corner of Alii Drive and Hualalai Road in Kailua-Kona was purchased by local contractor Uncle Billy Kimia. The 100-plus room hotel was utilized by many construction companies and workers. It was considered an icon. Centrally located near the Kona Inn Shopping Village, many construction workers stayed there for a few days, to a few weeks, to a few months while working on projects in Kona. It was affordable – especially when the workers would have two to four (and maybe more) in a room.

Amenities included a swimming pool and a bar-and-grill. It was close to many eateries, attractions, and shopping. The workers would gather after work, purchase some beer and pupus and socialize with other construction workers staying at the hotel.

Today, whenever construction workers gather and reminisce about the past, the topic of Uncle Billy's is sure to bring back many memories. Over the years, maintenance started to fall behind, however, and the hotel eventually fell into disrepair. The hotel needed a complete renovation. Since it was built before the 1960s there was also some asbestos that had to be removed. Around the same time that COVID hit Hawaii, the hotel was shut down and sat vacant.

In 2021, Sandor Shapery of 12th & A Hotel Partners LP purchased the property for \$21 million. He redesigned the hotel in a retro Hawaiian style but with updated amenities. The total project cost rose to more than \$55 million.

Our Tapers are working on the project. The anticipated opening is mid-2025 as The Hampton Kona Bay Hotel. The owner wants to keep the old Hawaii feeling and keep the community on board with affordable rates. Maybe when it is operational, construction workers will again rent rooms while working on projects on the West side of Hawaii island and make their own memories like others did at the old Uncle Billy's Kona Bay Hotel! 🤝



IUPAT District Council 50

2240 Young St. Honolulu, HI 96826

www.DC50.org

(808)941-0991

2025

January

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Wednesday, January 1

Monday, January 20

Monday, February 17

Friday, April 18

Monday, May 26

Wednesday, June 11

Friday, July 4

Monday, September 1

Monday, October 13

Tuesday, November 11

Thursday, November 27

Thursday, December 25

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

President's Day

Good Friday (Glaziers LU 1889 only)

Memorial Day

King Kamehameha I Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Discoverers Day (Glaziers LU 1889 only)

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day





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 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 - LUI791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LUI944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LUI889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LUI926	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

Trust Funds	808-523-9411
Toll Free Neighbor Island	877-523-9411

IN MEMORIAM

ROY KAIAMA, JR., MEMBER OF THE FLOOR LAYERS LU1926

KENNETH TOKUNAGA, FORMER MEMBER OF THE FLOOR LAYERS LU1926

MICHAEL FINCHEN, MEMBER OF THE GLAZIERS LU1889

JOHN MILLER, MEMBER OF THE PAINTERS LU1791