



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

JUNE 2021



**Nisei Veterans Memorial Center,
see page 3**





State of the Council

"We are actively recruiting new members for our finishing trades."

By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha Members!

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

I hope that this message finds all of you doing well and keeping safe! According to USA Facts dated June 11, 2021, Hawaii's vaccination progress is as follows:

| Doses given administered | Fully vaccinated Individuals | % of population Fully vaccinated |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hawaii | Individuals | Fully vaccinated |
| 1,625,091 | 694,717 | 49.07% |

Hawaii continues to move forward and the vaccines are now being made available to anyone 12 years and older. Please, let's all get vaccinated so that we can get back to normal and enjoy time – pot-lucks and holiday celebrations – with family and friends! We need to kick this virus and with more people being vaccinated we can do this!

Although the CDC has eased up on a few of the restrictions such as the removal of face coverings when outside in public places, please continue to mask up because face coverings work to mitigate the spread of this lethal disease. Protect yourself and your family by staying safely distant from others and wash your hands frequently. For more information on vaccination sites, registration, and vaccine FAQs, please visit www.hawaiiicovid19.com.

2021 Community Day of Action – a Union Day to give back

Annually, the IUPAT together with district councils throughout our nation and Canada sets the third Saturday in April as a union give back to the communities in which we reside in. Since the pandemic, strict health guidelines limited what our state and union could do. Now that some of the restrictions have been lessened, we were able



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HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades

District Council 50

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www.dc50.org



From Cover Page

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

On February 27, the District Council 50 Maui Apprenticeship Program along with instructors Shane Awai and Dustin Costa led a volunteer project in collaboration with union contractor JD Painting & Decorating on a portion of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

Located in Kahului, the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center is a non-profit organization, memorial and community center dedicated to Japanese American Nisei Veterans. With educational exhibits, a pre-school, and an adult daycare, the Center offers opportunities for the community to learn more about the history of Nisei veterans. District Council 50 Maui Painters Apprentices were able give back to the community, showcase their skills, and experience hands-on work outside of the classroom. 🙏



State of the Council

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to help out with two community projects.

Back in February, on Maui, our painter apprentices repainted portions of the exterior of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, and this past May member volunteers and apprentices painted the HPD K9 training apparatuses for the Special Services Division.

It is really a pleasure to once again be able to give back and make a difference in our communities. I want to extend a special thanks and shout out to our painting instructors Shane Awai, Dustin Costa, Peter Pascua, and Joshua Rodrigues. And, to all of our apprentices and volunteers, mahalo for giving back and for doing such an amazing job!

Update – Pass the PRO-Act and Infrastructure Priorities

The IUPAT, district councils, and public and private unions nationwide continue to fight for and support the passage of the PRO-Act. Our district council did its part by drafting four resolutions for introduction during this past legislative session. The resolutions encouraged Congress and the President to expeditiously pass the PRO-Act. I am proud to report that we were successful in getting three of resolutions passed – with *bipartisan* support! Mahalo to our Political Department for a job well done!

We have been working with our Hawaii congressional delegation

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Roberto Cariaga: The Third Time's the Charm

Following in his father's footsteps, Roberto Cariaga became a carpenter and joined the union. But when the recession hit, Roberto found himself out of work. To survive, he went back into auto body and paint work, which he had done previously. This is where he honed his skills, creating flawless work smoothing out dents, following contour lines, and creating mirror-like finishes that only skillful hands and sharp eyes can produce. The pay, however, was not that good.

After six years, Roberto knew that his brother was making good money as a drywall taper, and it was not hard to convince him to join the drywall taping trade. There's a saying, "The third time's the charm," associating the number three with good fortune.

Roberto had to start from the ground up, attending apprentice classes and working for various companies on the Big Island. Fortunately, the construction industry was very busy in 2000. Roberto found that he loved the Big Island lifestyle and eventually

moved and raised his three kids there.

Another recession hit in the latter part of 2008, and jobs grew fewer and farther between. In spite of the hard times, Roberto kept an upbeat attitude, staying busy working around his house and helping others. Eventually, work picked up again and Roberto was referred out working for a couple of contractors. He made a name

for himself among the contractors from Maui, Oahu and the Big Island. Being among the few tapers who lived on the Big Island, he was an asset to the contractors.

At times, when the situation demanded, Roberto would commute to the west side to keep being employed. That was before they opened up the saddle road which cut the travel time in half. So now, he would drive to work on the west side, get there before starting

time and commute back to Hawaii Ocean View Estates, day in and day out.

Eventually, Roberto's son and daughter joined the trade and credit him for teaching them the values of hard work and tough love. He was their role model, with a go with

the flow, laid back style, while getting what needs done, DONE. He instilled in them that hard work really pays off and molded them today as successful members of the union.

Even during this COVID-19 pandemic, Roberto and his son are still employed and are on the job doing what they enjoy, TAPING DRYWALL!

Looking back through the good times and the rough times, he does not regret being a member of the Tapers Union: "It has kept me going still to this day and hopefully until my retirement," he says. 🙏



Floor Layers Report

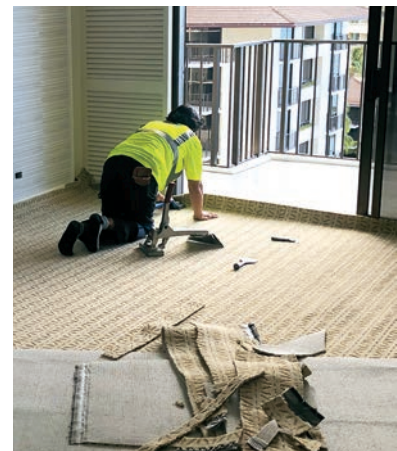
Aloha to all! I hope everyone is having a great year so far. I also hope everyone is continuing to keep healthy and safe both on and off the job. I do believe it is important to keep a positive attitude.

Renovations have played a huge role in helping the flooring industry to thrive and get us through this pandemic. Last year, there were extensive renovations of rooms and corridors in major hotels such as the Sheraton Waikiki (1,636 rooms) and the Waikiki Beach Marriott (1,310 rooms). There was also work completed

at the Grand Waikikian. Through this renovation trend, other hotels have also wanted to follow suit and update their premises as well. In 2021, current renovations include rooms and corridors at Halekulani (453 rooms), Turtle Bay Resort (410 rooms), and the Hilton Waikoloa Village Ocean Tower. These projects started in February and will continue to the end of the year.

Furthermore, the Hilton Waikoloa Village has provided a schedule that will enable us to have continuous work for many years to come. Currently, all installers have been cleared off the bench. I have also needed to bring in floor

layer installers from DC36 to assist with installation. Mahalo for all that you do! 🙏



Big Island Goes Union

This July, the Big Island will once again be represented by a union glass shop when Oahu Metal and Glass officially opens its doors in Kona. Over 10 years ago, Chris Knitter, then owner of Central Pacific Glass, left the Big Island for greener pastures, moving his union signatory glazing company to Oahu. Chris eventually formed a very successful signatory, Oahu Metal and Glass company.

Upon hearing Big Island contractors that he once serviced complain that they needed a quality union glass company to service them, Chris decided that it was time to head back to the Big Island to fill that void. He secured a suitable storage warehouse, moved some of his key employees to Kona, and set up shop. As his business in Kona takes off, Chris already has his eyes set on Hilo. Eventually, he might even have another glass shop in Hilo to service all of the Big Island. 🧑‍🔧



Daniel K. Akaka Veterans Home

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Daniel K. Akaka Veterans Home was held in April 2020. The facility will be located at 91-1204 Kealanani Avenue across from the Kapolei Walmart. The complex will include three buildings situated on a seven-acre lot. When completed, it will have 120 beds in the residential units, treatment facility, and a community building.

This State of Hawaii project is partially funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs (\$44.7 million). Currently, the only housing for veterans in Hawaii is the 95-bed Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and a 60-bed facility at Tripler Army Medical Center on Oahu.

Nan, Inc. has been awarded the \$98.4 million project that is scheduled to be completed in April 2023. The project, which is currently awaiting approval of building permits, will utilize local subcontractors. This type of construction project is good for our members and signatory contractors. Members should be kept busy for the duration of the project. Veterans will get a much-needed facility on Oahu, where majority of the veterans reside. Of the estimated 118,000 veterans in Hawaii, about 70 percent of them live on Oahu. We all should be proud to work on this facility that will help veterans that served our nation. 🧑‍🔧



Rigging and Signaling Training Classes

District Council 50 Training Department has added Rigging and Signaling to the list of classes available to all active members. This training is valid for three years. Having this training helps to keep our members working by allowing us to rig and signal our own material loads without having to always rely on another trade to do that work for us because we were not trained.

Although rigging and signaling is mostly used in high-rise building work utilizing tower cranes, it can also be useful on other jobsites that require delivery of materials to upper-level elevations using smaller cranes and telescoping forklifts. This is definitely worth having under our belt.

Other compliance and safety training classes available:

| Expiring Classes | Valid |
|---|---------|
| Hazard Communication (Haz Com) | 1 year |
| First Aid/CPR | 2 years |
| Fall protection | 3 years |
| Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) | 3 years |
| Forklift (Class V & VII) | 3 years |
| Architectural Glass & Metal Technician (AGMT) | 4 years |
| NCCCO Mobile Crane Operator | 5 years |

Non-expiring Classes

Confined Space
OSHA 10 hour
OSHA 30 hour
Frame Scaffold
Suspended Scaffold
Spray Certification

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 restrictions certain classes may not be available on all islands.

Please contact the District Council 50 Training department for more information and class registration at (808) 947-6606. 🧑‍🔧

The PRO Act

You may have heard of the PRO-Act in the news recently. The PRO-Act stands for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, a bill that is now in Congress. The PRO Act is the most significant attempt to update and improve U.S. labor laws in almost 75 years. Its purpose is to benefit union members and restore balance between large corporations and the working class.

A huge imbalance exists between labor and management in our country along with a corresponding imbalance in wealth between the top one percent in society and the working class. This imbalance came about because of loopholes in federal labor laws that have been exploited over the years and by constant attacks against unions funded by the wealthiest one percent in society. The failure to address this imbalance has caused a lower standard of living for all but the one percent, who have seen their standard of living go up. It has divided the working class by emphasizing a “me first” attitude, fanning the fires of racial intolerance and fear of immigrants, and threatening to tear our country apart.

Recent polls show that people in this country overwhelmingly view unions positively and want to be a part of a union. The PRO-Act is designed to enable people to form or join unions and to strengthen them. What exactly does the PRO Act do?

1. Strengthens penalties for corporations and corporate officers for violating federal laws;
2. Prohibits employers from interfering in union elections, including forcing workers to attend meetings designed to persuade them

Why the PRO Act?

Policymakers have failed to update labor laws, and reform is necessary. All workers have a right to fair treatment, benefits, and a safe working environment. We must come together to protect what our predecessors have made possible for us. Labor unions have a significant and essential role in our society. Created by workers and for workers, they protect the rights of individuals and move our community forward with their involvement in civil liberties, social justice, and economic equality. Without unions, we are silenced, and companies are able to continue the cycle of oppression and mistreatment.

The growing inequality has created a situation where the average worker cannot thrive. The erasure of unions brought forth by major corporations plays a crucial role in many of our country's issues today. For instance, the decline of unions and worker bargaining power is linked to the rise of income inequality, wage stagnation, a decrease in mobility, the increased number of low-wage jobs, and the corrupt politics which support the rich and powerful.

In other words, corporations are taking advantage of the average worker and making copious amounts of money. For instance, workers covered by a collective bargaining agreement decreased by 15.4 percent in the years ranging from 1979 to 2019, leaving just 10.5 percent of workers that belong to a union today. With a decrease in union membership, the average worker loses out on \$200 billion per year. Where is this money going? The cash is funneling directly into the pockets of the rich and powerful corporate executives, the one percent.

Furthermore, corporations actively seek to destabilize and erase workers' right to form unions. It is commonplace for corporations

not to form or support a union;

3. Expands the availability and effectiveness of worker boycotts and strikes;
4. Helps newly formed unions reach a first collective bargaining agreement (a “CBA”) with their employer;
5. Allows the collection of fair-share fees that cover the costs of collective bargaining and administration of a CBA by all workers who benefit from the CBA; and
6. Strengthens rules prohibiting the misclassification of employees as supervisors or independent contractors.

The PRO-Act has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but Republicans in the U.S. Senate have been able to prevent the Senate from taking a vote on the bill. President Joe Biden, who was endorsed by the IUPAT and District Council 50, has publicly committed to sign the bill into law if Congress passes it.

District Council 50 is doing its share here in Hawaii to support the PRO-Act. This year, District Council 50 worked with allies in the construction industry and the community at large to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 164 in the Hawaii State Legislature. This joint House and Senate Resolution calls on Congress to pass and President Biden to sign the PRO-Act. We are pleased to report that SCR 164 had almost unanimous support – Republican Representative Val Okimoto of Mililani was the only legislator to vote against the Resolution.

For more information on the PRO-Act, visit <https://www.iupat.org/contact-us/hawaii>, check out our Instagram pages, or ask any business representative. 🙌

to hire union avoidance consultants. It is estimated that companies invest around \$340 million per year for UACs to keep workers from organizing. While it is illegal for companies to retaliate against workers who participate in union organizing, the consequences are minute, and therefore, companies engage in intimidation, coercion, and termination of workers.

The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act will change the laws to protect labor, allowing people to form unions, reach a first contract, and make it more difficult and punishable for corporations that interfere. We must support the PRO-Act because, as it stands now, our unions are not protected, and powerful corporations are investing millions to eliminate unions and take away the collective bargaining power of the American worker. It is not only individuals who belong to unions that benefit from them. When unions are strong and widespread, they establish higher and broader standards that non-union employers must match. This allows non-unionized workers to thrive, stimulating a brilliant middle class and ultimately diminishing inequality and inequity. 🙌

References

- Beyerstein, Lindsay. “Sticking With the Union.” *Democracy Journal*, 28 Mar. 2020, democracyjournal.org/magazine/55/sticking-with-the-union/.
- “For Liberty, Justice, and Equality: Unions Making History in America,” University Libraries, www.lib.umd.edu/unions.
- Shierholz, Heidi. “Weakened Labor Movement Leads to Rising Economic Inequality.” *Economic Policy Institute*, 27 Jan. 2020, www.epi.org/blog/weakened-labor-movement-leads-to-rising-economic-inequality/.

Maui Floor Layer Apprentices

On February 27, District Council 50 Floor Layers Training Coordinator Paterno Asuncion had the opportunity to fly to Maui to hold a workshop for the Floor Layer apprentices at Maui Community College. Different techniques were covered, including how to cut inside and outside corners for profile base and how to layout big box stores with different types of materials. While more classes are being planned for the upcoming semester with the hope of providing more hands-on learning, the apprentices are currently attending and learning via Zoom. 🙌



Just A Heads Up!

ALOHA! The University of Hawaii is adding COVID-19 vaccinations to its student health clearance requirements beginning with the Fall 2021 semester. So, to be on any UH campus, students must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 along with the other health clearance requirements. Students that are not vaccinated will be able to enroll in online courses. Students will also be able to request exemptions for medical and religious reasons. The vaccine requirement will take effect only after at least one of the three COVID-19 vaccines has been approved and fully licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which is expected by the summer. 🙌



Dust Control is Key

As of 2019, OSHA has mandated the control of any construction dust on job sites – from the way dust is swept, sanded or cut into any construction material. Any power tool that creates dust must have a vacuum attachment, or you must create a bubble to control the dust you are going to create.

These rules have created an awareness within all the construction trades – not only how you barricade the dust but also how you protect yourself from breathing the dust. Tapers are no exception and drywall manufacturers have created some awesome vacuum sanders. The new machines are not cheap and take some getting used to. However, the benefits outweigh the costs, with less dust for Tapers to breathe in and less dust to clean up when they're done sanding.

We want to ensure our members are better protected and, living longer and healthier lives. Our training department strives to have everyone in compliance with their Silica or Respiratory Clearance and we also have four training coordinators that can administer the Fit Test at any given time. DC50 training works to keep all our rank and file in compliance and ready to work. 🙌



State of the Council

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to strongly support the passage of a comprehensive infrastructure package that includes anti-corrosion projects for bridges and water/wastewater systems as well as upgrading our schools, transportation systems, and public buildings. This measure must also include labor standards such as prevailing wage and protections against misclassification and wage theft. Once this measure is passed, we can look forward to an increase in job opportunities and growing our union.

Reminders/Updates

- Due to the ongoing health concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Labor Day Picnic has been canceled. We hope to see this well-attended event return in 2022. Please stay tuned for more information.
- All local union membership meetings continue to be held virtually via ZOOM. Please call the union hall at 808-941-0991 or toll-free at 888-811-4020 for registration information.
- Never fall behind on your dues by registering for monthly auto-pay deductions. For assistance, please see anyone of our friendly administrative staff, or call 808-941-0991.
- We are actively recruiting new members for our finishing trades; if you know of anyone interested in joining our DC50 team, please have them contact any Business Representative or me for more information.

Keep Safe out there and Mahalo! 🙌

Ryden Valiga



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

- Retirees Club meeting – have been CANCELED until further notice.
- All local union meetings are being held via Zoom. If you would like to participate in the monthly meetings and have not registered before, please contact the union office and provide them with a valid email address so the registration link and instructions can be sent to you. If you have already registered, you will be automatically included in all future meetings.

SPECIALTY WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1941

- Membership meetings – Second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791

- Membership meetings – Third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

DRYWALL TAPERS FINISHERS LOCAL UNION 1944

- Membership meetings – Second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

GLAZIERS, ARCHITECTURAL METAL AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL UNION 1889

- Executive Board meetings – Second to the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

CARPET, LINOLEUM AND SOFT TILE LOCAL UNION 1926

- Membership meetings – Third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

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

HERBERT YAMADA – (LU1889)

BUNNY GABAYLO (FORMER MEMBER OF LU1791)